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EPISTOLAE ACADEMICAE OXON.

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EPISTOLAE ACADEMICAE OXON.

(Registrum F)

A COLLECTION OF LETTERS AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS ILLUSTRATIVE OF ACADEMICAL LIFE AND STUDIES AT OXFORD IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY

EDITED BY THE

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OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE, FORMERLY VICE-PRINCIPAL OF ST. MARY HALL AND SOMETIME RECTOR OF SLAPTON, BUCKS

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

'Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes
Emollit mores, nec sinit esse feros'

PART I

(1421—1457)

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INTRODUCTION

NOTE.—The references in this Introduction are to the pages, not to the number of the epistle.

THE MS., from which the following work is derived, is a small folio volume bound in stamped leather, with brazen corners and clasps. It is usually known as Registrum F, perhaps so called after Mr. Farley, at one time scribe of the University, who certainly wrote a considerable portion of it. The date of the binding is, I am told by a better judge than myself, Mr. Macray of the Bodleian Library, of the early part of the sixteenth century, and has been rebacked more than once—once, indeed, within the present writer's memory.

The number of sheets, which are of vellum, and, except in the case of blank portions, are written upon on both sides, is 198; of these, two are numbered 48, and two 107. The numbering of the folios is in a contemporary hand as far as folio 72, after that it is of late date.

Four sheets at the beginning of the volume, that is to say, previous to the folio numbered 1, have not been used for the purpose of the register, but are, in the main, blank; the first has, however, been scribbled over by some one practising writing, being nearly covered by unconnected letters and words; a circumstance not without some bearing upon a subject of no little interest, the question, that is to say, who wrote the letters, upon which subject a few remarks will be found in this introduction. Here and there a name occurs among the scribbling—Crakynthorpe, Elyott, Farley, London—and in one place is written, '*dum sumus in mundo vivamus corde jucundo*,' '*care away, care away*,' and a few other words quite illegible. On the second folio there is a note as to giving a book into the stationer's hands: 'octodecimo die Decembris, anno regis Henrici septimi quarto, traditus est in manus stationarii liber Burley *super libros philosophorum*, secundo

folio *si quis.*' On the fourth is written: '*Praeceptum est ballivis villae Oxoniae quod venire faciant, coram domino Cancellario sive ejus commissario, apud Gildhallam villae praedictae, decem et octo liberos et legales homines de villa antedicta et suburbiis ejusdem, ad faciendum et inquirendum ea quae eis ibidem ex parte domini regis injungentur; et quod iidem ballivi habeant nomina et cognomina praedictorum hominum decem et octo liberorum coram dicto Cancellario die primo Maii proximo futuro. Datum praesentium pariter cum hoc praecepto apud Gildhallam praedictam returnatur. Datum tricesimo die mensis Junii, anno regis Henrici octavi primo.*'

The foregoing notes, though in themselves insignificant, I have thought it better to preserve, in order to give a correct idea of the MS. and its condition; and perhaps it is not altogether without interest to imagine the scribe, evidently, I think, one who could write but very poorly, practising his hand before setting to work to copy some letter into the book, and beguiling, perhaps, the weary work with a snatch of song.

On the reverse side of the same folio occur two notes, which, as they belong to the matter of the text, I have placed at the foot of page 1.

The MS. Register F, properly so called, begins therefore on the fifth folio, and on the right-hand upper margin has the words '*primum folium*,' in addition to the numeral 1, while on the corresponding left-hand corner is written, '*Registrum Johannis Farley, vide folio* 114 *b.*'

The volume is probably substantially in the same condition as when it was restored to the University in 1605 by Dr. Abbot (see note, p. 1). How it came to be lost we are not told; but that similar 'alienations' of other register books of the University have happened, we have abundant evidence. There is, for instance, in the British Museum one of the Proctor's books mentioned in the *Munimenta Academica*; there is likewise a volume of letters of the same period, or nearly so, as that with which we are now occupied, in the possession of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The volume, I think, came to that society from Archbishop Parker, along with other of his own books. How he came to possess the book can, I suppose, be only a matter of conjecture, but it is clear that great carelessness commonly attended the custody of such registers; so much so that it seems that they came to be regarded as the property of the Chancellor or proctors, and in some cases were actually so treated, and passed into other hands. I have to express my thanks to the Master of Corpus Christi

College, Cambridge, for very kindly offering to permit me to see the MS. above mentioned; but it would be quite useless to do so, unless time were given and were at my disposal for a thorough examination; and to make this, if I may judge from my experience of Register F, which has occupied my leisure for at least five years, would be, under the circumstances, altogether impossible; for the society is not, I believe, permitted by their statutes to allow the MS. to leave the precincts of the College. It is to be hoped that the MS. in question may one day be printed, but certainly the requisite conditions for the accomplishment of that object seem likely to render this extremely difficult.

The MS., with which we are now engaged, is generally in excellent condition, being only in a few places disfigured, perhaps by attempts to revive the writing, thereby afterwards, as usual, rendered illegible or extremely faint at best; with the exception, however, of a few words, or, in one or two occasions, lines, the whole has, it is hoped, been here deciphered and transcribed. Where any word or words are abandoned as hopeless, the circumstance is noted in each case at the foot of the page.

The volume, one of the register books and a portion of the Archives of the University, is not, strictly speaking, a letter-book. The larger and more important part of it consists of letters to and from the University, but it contains also a very considerable amount of miscellaneous matter, e.g. letters testimonial, acquittances of various kinds, especially of the Abbeys of Eynsham and Oseney, which are entered with scrupulous care, though not always in their chronological place, nearly, if not absolutely, every year, for the annual pensions paid by them to the University. There are also acquittances for subscriptions given for building various edifices, such as the New School of Theology, St. Mary's Church, and the schools of Canon and Civil Law; for this fifteenth century may be considered as the period of the commencement of what we should call the public buildings of the University; which now witnessed a great effort to restore learning, and especially the study of theology; stimulated, no doubt, by the rapid growth of heretical doctrines, and aided by the munificence of sympathisers.

Several other matters will occur also to the reader; commemorations of founders and benefactors, the statute for the New Library, catalogues of the books given by the Duke of Gloucester, and one or two ordinances for the management of chests, one of which, the Exeter Chest,

is mentioned in no other register of the University—a remarkable fact, since all such ordinances were strictly required to be entered in every register. There occur also several indentures, and some decrees of Congregation, &c. From these remarks it will be seen that this work is a continuation of the *Munimenta Academica*, edited by the present writer for the Rolls series; more properly speaking, perhaps, I should say that it is a part of the same family of MSS. published in that work, is of the same date with the larger part of them, and deals with events of the same period of our academical history, covering nearly the whole of the fifteenth century, and a few years of the sixteenth, from 1421 to 1503 (p. 1, note). Indeed, it was designed to immediately follow the *Munimenta Academica* by the publication of the present work, but circumstances, which it is unnecessary to do more than mention in passing, prevented the execution of that design, and the Register F has remained, not indeed altogether unknown, but in a great measure unexplored until this time; partly, no doubt, from the difficulty of the MS., and partly because no public demand likely ever to repay the expense of printing exists, or is likely to exist, for a work of this character. I thank the Oxford Historical Society, therefore, for enabling me to rescue this, I hope, not uninteresting collection from oblivion, 'the stepmother of memory.'

From the frequent occurrence of the acquittances above mentioned, almost verbatim identical, and from the large number of letters testimonial, closely resembling each other, the forms of citation of accused persons, and some other articles of the routine of University business, there will be found a large amount of unavoidable repetition. Whether it was unavoidable is, it is true, a debateable point; for of course, by judicious selection, much might have been omitted, and the bulk of the work very appreciably reduced. This alternative, it hardly needs be said, was duly weighed, but on consideration it has been thought best to publish the MS. entire. The object is to reproduce exactly an historical MS., a complete as well as genuine record of the past. A shorter and perhaps more interesting work might have been written by selecting the more striking documents; and it is not disputed that cooking renders, or should do so, the material operated upon more palatable. It will, however, be conceded that the principle of selection once admitted, genuine evidence is indefinitely weakened, and confidence correspondingly shaken; for it is clearly not possible for the reader to know what has been suppressed, or how far what has been so suppressed would have modified what was preserved. Nothing,

therefore, has been omitted; everything between the covers of the binding is here given, except here and there a note by some comparatively quite modern hand upon the margin of the page. These are few and brief, and, where they seemed of any value, have been noticed at the foot of the page, forming no part of the MS. properly so called. There is a further reason in favour of the plan here adopted. The genealogist and antiquarian would be unwilling that the names of persons who figured in University life in this century should be omitted. These are numerous, and may no doubt occasionally furnish a missing link in family history, if not in the wider sphere of political life.

The MS. contains five hundred and twenty-seven numbered articles; but two of them have the same number, and of one the number is omitted. Of these, one is an indenture and twenty-two are letters testimonial, which were considered as epistles proper, and numbered as such up to p. 170. There remain, then, five hundred and seven epistles to and from the University, exclusive of the testimonial letters, indentures, and other miscellaneous matter alluded to above. Of the epistles forty-eight are in English, as is also one indenture, the remainder are in Latin. It will be seen, therefore, that no uniform numeration of the contents is employed, and the figures are not of the same date as the MS., but have been added considerably later. Such as it is, the numeration has not been altered in any instance, but stands as it is in the MS.

The first document in the collection is of the date 1422, or perhaps 1421 (see note, p. 1); the last, after a break of six years, is of the date 1509; so that the contents profess to be the epistles, &c. of the University during nearly a century. They are not, however, a complete collection, as has been stated above; and several indications, I think, appear in the present volume, which go far to prove that this is only one perhaps of several registers containing epistles. For instance, it will be noticed that of those in this register nearly all are from the University, and comparatively very few from correspondents; and it seems hardly probable that the answers to their letters would be altogether neglected. On p. 487 another register is actually named, nor are other indications of the same sort wanting; take, for example, epistle 32 (p. 29), from which it is plain that letters were sent to other citizens.

Next comes a difficult question to answer—who wrote the MS., and when did they write it? It has been stated already that the

MS. is a contemporary one: that is beyond question; I should not venture to be so positive perhaps on my own judgement, but it is corroborated by Mr. Macray, of the Bodleian Library, whose opinion may be taken as conclusive. When, therefore, it is asked when the various articles were written, it is not intended to dispute the contemporary origin of the MS. But there is another sense in which the question is very difficult to answer, and that is, when were the entries made in the Register? One would have supposed that they would be entered immediately, and it may be taken for granted that it was intended that this should be done, when the copy, brought from the house of Congregation, was handed to the person whose duty it was to enter it. Unfortunately there is too much reason to think that this duty was not by any means performed with scrupulous punctuality, a circumstance which has added greatly to the labour of editing the volume. It will be found, for instance, that many of the epistles and other articles are misplaced, that is to say, do not come in due chronological order. Where more than usually glaring instances of this occur, notice is occasionally taken of the fact in a note at the foot of the page; but I may here mention instances. There is a testimonial letter manifestly misplaced (p. 33). And the last two letters to the Duke of Gloucester are placed in the register *after* the letter to the King, in which the death of the Duke is mentioned; they seem, in fact, to be entered a year after date (251–256). Again, on p. 356, the reader will find a note pointing out the complete dislocation of the MS., so great that the chronological order is altogether lost for some years. Only these three very striking examples are selected, but the fact is that the chronological order of a very considerable portion of the MS. is more than doubtful; and this character of the MS. was well known by those familiar with it in former times, for I find more than one note to this effect in the handwriting, as, I think, of Mr. Smith, sometime Keeper of the Archives, who calls attention to the unreliable nature of the chronology.

How is this disorder to be explained? I suggest that the solution may be found in the following remarks. On examining the MS., we find that there is a very large number of the folios remaining partially blank, and no less than six entirely so. I count ninety-one blank portions, varying from three quarters to one quarter of the whole folio; I do not here reckon the blank folios at the beginning of the volume, which have been already mentioned, nor

others occurring at the end; so that here was ample room for inserting additional matter. I infer from this that the MS. existed from the first in the form of a volume, and probably was bound much as it is at present; and when an epistle or other article had to be entered, this was often done not by making the entry immediately after that last written, but by leaving a folio or two, or perhaps only a part of one, blank for future use. This I conceive to have been done not carelessly, but intentionally, by the copyist, who probably knew that there were other things that would have to be entered—acquittances, for instance, for money not yet received, and letters testimonial, the precise place of which latter would really be of no great importance—and accordingly left what he considered sufficient space for that purpose; and very probably on receiving a copy, he would be reminded that this should be done. This would account for the existence of blank folios, many of which were never wholly filled, and some, as we have seen, not at all, and would also leave abundant opportunity for a not very intelligent scribe to insert documents, as clearly was done, in wrong places.

Under these circumstances it is almost superfluous to observe that the marginal dates throughout the work cannot be taken as more than approximately correct; except in those cases where the date is given in the text and corresponds with that on the margin. And while on this subject it is convenient to mention, what will be evident to any one examining the work, that dates are, singularly enough, seldom found attached to the more important documents, or perhaps, I should say, those documents we should now consider most important; whereas in the case of more insignificant matters, as acquittances, for instance, they are rarely absent; but on the contrary, are written in nearly every instance with a regularity and exactitude which sufficiently prove how great was the importance attached to the preservation of these documents; and indeed not without reason were the evidences of such things carefully guarded, as the poverty of the University, a subject to be alluded to later on, would lead one to expect that they would be.

This naturally raises another question—who were the writers? And here again what we should have expected is not confirmed by the evidence of the MS. That they were very numerous is put beyond question by the great variety in the handwriting—occasionally we have more than one hand employed in the same letter—though it should be stated that this variety is much less in the later part

of the volume; from which I infer that, in the earlier part of the time embraced in this register, the duty of making the entries did not devolve upon an official specially appointed for that work. And this conjecture amounts almost to a certainty when we find that the University scribe, when there was such a functionary, appends not infrequently his own name at the end of the letter he has just written, as in the cases of the scribes Mannyngham, Farley, and Burgeys (367, 263, 647). Of these it is to be noticed that the second-named, Farley, writes his name in Greek characters more than once; and as a considerable portion of the MS. is written in one handwriting at the time when he was scribe, there needs be no doubt that he is responsible for it; though, as it is of all the volume the most inaccurate and disjointed as to date, he must clearly have taken a not very strict view of his responsibility (356). We know then that there was a scribe, who seems to call himself a 'Notary' on one occasion (272), and we also know from other sources that he was allowed an undergraduate assistant. My conjecture is, therefore, that the peculiarities of the MS. are in great measure attributable to the fact that it was in many parts the work of young and ignorant copyists—perhaps undergraduate boys, that is to say, whose knowledge of Latin was but small, and their ability to read the document entrusted to them more than questionable. The handwriting is, as has been said, very various, and varies likewise exceedingly both in legibility and grammatical correctness, as also in the number and character of the abbreviations employed. Some parts of the MS. are very clear, and easily legible by one accustomed to such work; but on the other hand, very much of it is of great difficulty, not only from the very numerous and somewhat arbitrary nature of the abbreviations, and, in parts, the faded condition of the ink, but, which is more serious, from the innumerable blunders in spelling and grammar; so numerous, indeed, and so great are the latter, frequently amounting to a complete disregard of the construction of a sentence, that it is quite inconceivable that any official of standing in the University, as a proctor, for instance, or the Vice-Chancellor himself, can be thought to have been responsible for them.

I think that previous to the appointment of a scribe, and perhaps occasionally afterwards, the labour of copying was entrusted by the Vice-Chancellor or Proctors to an amanuensis acting occasionally in that capacity. And this theory is confirmed by the singular circumstance that when the handwriting is of a distinctly

individual character, and often difficult to decipher, it is almost always grammatical, while the more regular writing of a more formal character, though easy to read, is full of blunders. If this explanation be correct, it will account for much that is somewhat puzzling in a study of the MS. It is possible, moreover, that shorthand copies may have been handed to the clerk; in which case, of course, there would be the greater probability of such errors as I have described finding their way into the register. It should perhaps be mentioned, in these remarks on the nature of the MS., that many of the epistles to the popes are crossed out, but not in any way rendered illegible—this may be undoubtedly put down to an ebullition of protestant zeal at a later period—and the same disfigurement is observed to have been suffered, and to a much greater extent, by the Vice-Chancellor's and Proctor's books, A, B, and C. Sometimes also, but not often, lines are crossed out and obliterated altogether. In some instances, and these are more frequent, the epistle breaks off suddenly, and occasionally a mere fragment is left us—sometimes the concluding portion only is lacking. I am inclined to believe that there was a reason for this latter variety of mutilation; those cases where only a few lines occur before the breaking off of the epistle, have been caused, I think, by the copyist finding that the epistle had already been entered in this or some other register, for such fragments seldom extend beyond the address, or but little beyond it. But where the whole letter, or nearly the whole, is given, only breaking off before the customary laudations, and prayers for the welfare of the person to whom it is addressed, perhaps there is ground for supposing that the writer, being perhaps a strong opposition member of Congregation, rebelled against the use of the customary conclusion of the epistle, and satisfied his rancour by this little exhibition of spite. Sometimes the copy would be lost in the house of Congregation, for we find that the writer adds a note below his letter—'*Copia fuit perdita in domo Congregationis et ideo non scripsi plus*' (349). Often it is said that the epistle is written 'raptim' (390, 393), and on one occasion it is remarked, '*quo die discurrebatur in domo Congregationis.*'

Naturally all such conjectures must be conjectures and nothing more, but when we try to represent to ourselves the scenes of a state of society, the true character of which is with difficulty discernible, these little and obviously perfectly natural notes are not without their value; on the contrary, like a flash of light,

they give a sudden and even vivid view of things more or less buried in the darkness of the past. One plainly sees here unmistakable indications of stormy assemblies in Congregation, nor is the suspicion of a general free fight at all unfounded; that strong language, to put it mildly, was not uncommon, we have good reasons to believe, and that it ended in blows would be nothing extraordinary. The Chancellor or his Commissary would come 'down to the house,' no doubt, duly provided with a draft of the letter to be sent (say to the king or archbishop), but there would be expressions in it not at all to the taste of the opposition; for it will be observed that an opposition clearly existed, and in a very self-asserting form, so much so, indeed, that letters were sometimes dispatched for which humble apology had to be made, and high court interest invoked (527, 517–19). Then would come debates, and sometimes something stronger, and if the copy was lost in the Congregation-house, there is nothing so surprising in that as in the scribe being able to write down from memory the document he had to enter in the register; for clearly he did not obtain a second copy, otherwise no need would have existed for leaving the letter incomplete.

On the whole there are sufficient disturbing causes or defective arrangements to fully account for the bad spelling, bad writing, bad grammar, and mutilated documents, which, if they surprise, will not be without amusement to any one who has a taste for this kind of study. And again, while on the one hand the defects and inaccuracies we have noticed have considerably aggravated the difficulties of the editor, they are not without their value; for the entire artlessness of the whole production is beyond question, and it is a pleasure peculiar to the perusal of a work of this kind that such undoubted confidence may be placed in the good faith of the facts and statements; and that, if they be but meagre, the points of interest are not selected for a purpose, or misrepresented for publication. Clearly not the faintest apprehension ever troubled the mind of the poor copying clerk that his mistakes would or could be multiplied in innumerable copies and made the subject of the contempt or ridicule of a better instructed age. No fear disturbed the Chancellor's equanimity lest the transactions of the University, their fawning adulation of the king, their congratulations to both sides in the desolating war that brought the country and the University to ruin, their humble petitions to popes and bishops, and all the other things they wrote, some of which must have been

more or less bitter to flesh and blood, even in those days when violence engendered servility, and the ignorance of the great was only equalled by the poverty of the educated, would ever be known beyond the limits of the actual correspondence. Such as they are, and as far as they go, these documents faithfully represent the thoughts and feelings of the writers, and the condition of the Church, the University, and education in those days.

It is therefore not without some hope that the work may prove to be acceptable, that this MS. is now edited. As to the facts, or at least the main facts, of the history of the University, I think it may be safely concluded that nothing of any great importance can now be added to what is already known, and the present collection of documents does not pretend to add materially to what has long ago been published on that subject; but what the student of history always longs for and very seldom finds is, not the dates and figures, not the dry facts and statements, however exact, as to the succession of kings, battles and sieges, the numbers of the slain and the like, or even the intrigues of courts and the successes of statesmen or warriors, but the thoughts and feelings of men, the private or domestic life of the past, the dress, the manners and language of the people, the structure of their dwellings, and all those details of the existence of the mass of mankind, to which we are conscious that the corresponding circumstances of our own day present so great a contrast. We desire, in a word, the flesh and blood to clothe and animate the dry bones of history, to restore something like a picture of the living reality.

I know of nothing in this kind existing in respect of our Universities in the Middle Ages, beyond what has already been published and what is here offered to the reader. If the Paston letters, truly interesting as they are, somewhat disappoint us by the very homeliness of their contents, they present a picture almost, indeed so far as I know, wholly unlike anything else we possess—a vivid and genuine view of the cares and troubles, the language, manners, and occupations of a private country gentleman in what is probably the least known of any period of our national history. The letters here edited in no way pretend to compete with the Paston letters, and are indeed as dissimilar from them as possible. While the latter are expressed in the humblest vernacular, and are concerned mainly with the private affairs of a single family, the former are, as to the very much larger number, in the language of the learned, and are occupied almost wholly, with here and there,

as it were, a few touches of colour accidentally illustrating private life (pp. 512 and 596), with the state of the University, the condition of learning, its hopes of patronage by the great, its fears and dangers from the hostility of a brutal age of 'blood and iron,' its constant care for religion and zeal for the maintenance of the faith, the libraries, the schools, and the Church; the bloodless warfare ever being waged from this 'the fortress of learning' against the foes of religion and culture, compassing it about on every side.

Here we have recorded the pitiable appeals of the persecuted clerks to the secular arm, imploring protection for this 'vineyard of the Lord' from the ruthless attacks and insidious machinations of foes without and foes within; all their poverty and misery is without any false shame exposed; and there is no shadow of suspicion that such disclosures could have ever been intended for publication in any way, even by such a multiplication of MS. copies as took place in those days in the case of some of the more popular productions. Such as they are, these epistles reflect with exact truth the thoughts and feelings, the hopes and fears, of the University in the fifteenth century.

A few words should be added here on the treatment of the MS. in this work. It is full of erasures and corrections. A practised eye, of course, immediately discerns between contemporary and subsequent dealings of this sort; and where corrections, &c. are by a contemporary hand, they are considered to be the second, and therefore better, thoughts of the writer, and accordingly retained in the text. Other corrections, &c., when adopted, have been noted at the foot of the page.

The spelling of the original is throughout the work carefully preserved; or if, from some exceptional cause, it has been thought desirable to alter it, this too is noted at the foot of the page. The variation also of names, as well surnames as Christian, has always been preserved as in the MS. In these the variation of spelling would be extraordinary, but that we know there was no recognized orthography of the English tongue at this time. Thus we find the same surname spelt in several different ways within the compass of one epistle; even the name of that great champion of the University, such is the carelessness or ignorance of the writer, is on one occasion made to be John instead of Thomas Bourchier. I am afraid to say how many varieties there are in the spelling of the name Bourchier, or in that of the Abbey of Eynsham; of this, many more examples might be given here, but these will suffice. In the case of the Latin letters, that is to say, nine-tenths of the whole, there is very consider-

able variation, but much less than in those which are written in the vernacular; and it will be noticed by a careful reader of the epistles, that there is a very marked difference between those of the earlier and those of the latter part of the century. In the latter, we find the modern spelling rapidly asserting itself—*gignasium*, for example, has became *gymnasium*; *exibeo*, *exhibeo*; *quatinus*, *quatenus*; and a number of other words in a similar way indicate a great advancement. And this perhaps is a convenient place in an introduction (which has to notice many things difficult to arrange in a connected order), that I think a very considerable change will also be detected in the Latin; and certainly, in the style of address and conclusion: the 'old things' seem in great measure to have 'passed away' before the conclusion of the century. The solemn religious tone of the earlier testimonial letters has, for example, become quite superseded by a far more business-like form. In the ordinary epistle, S. P. D. is actually found to have crept in, I think probably from Dr. Chandler's superior knowledge of Cicero, aided very probably by the copies given by the Duke of Gloucester. These, however, are of course only specimens; the general style is also altogether changed at the close of the volume.

When we come to examine the English letters, which are, as has been already stated, forty-eight in number, the variety in spelling, far more striking, has been noticed above; but what is most curious in this connexion is that some of the English letters in this MS. are so like the ordinary language of to-day, that they would with but slight alteration be hardly considered more than somewhat peculiar; whereas others, and that the greatly larger number, present almost as extraordinary specimens of phonetic spelling as are to be found even in the Paston letters. The same remarkable disparity is also found in the letters of the Paston collection, one or two of Lord Hastings' being almost like our language at the present time, and varying from it in spelling to no very considerable extent. In all the English letters also the spelling of the MS. is, of course, carefully preserved, the use of capital letters also is like that in the MS., but punctuation, being, as usual in MSS. of that date, either wholly wanting or only very partially and wrongly used, has been supplied.

As no other copy of this MS. exists, there is no collation to be noticed, as in the case of the MSS. used for the *Munimenta Academica*, but the number of the folio, on which every epistle or other article is to be found in the MS., is given on the margin of the pages. As to the dates, it has been already stated that there are considerable

difficulties, and more need not be said, except that even the names of the Proctors for the year, which might have been considered a sure criterion, are, I fear, not quite so much so as may be thought; for sometimes these officials did not enter upon their office until some time after the beginning of the year (supposing the 25th of March to be reckoned as the beginning), so that the proctorship of the previous year would overlap the next. Nor am I certain that the 25th of March is always reckoned for the beginning of the year. The very considerable variety of use in this matter, and the consequent difficulties arising from it, will be seen in some notice of the subject in that most useful work *The Chronology of History*, by Sir H. Nicholas.

In the Latin letters there is a great variety in the arrangement, sometimes the address is at the beginning, and sometimes at the end, sometimes both. Some have a title, most, however, have none; and therefore it will be understood that, in all cases where there is no title in the original, one has been supplied in English. Of the titles which may be called original, that is to say, found in the MS., not all are contemporary, some having been added by later hands; occasionally, and particularly in certain parts of the volume, the titles are written on the margin, the letters being so closely one upon the heels of the other as to leave no space between. As to the position of the address, this has been made uniform by being placed at the commencement of each letter; at any rate that has been the intention, and if it has not been done in every instance, the omission must be here apologized for. As to the spelling of the Latin letters, the original is carefully reproduced everywhere, or (for the cases have occurred here and there) where a correction has been thought desirable, the error being unmistakably a genuine *lapsus calami* and no more, an acknowledgement is made in a footnote. It would perhaps have been better to omit even these few corrections, for to make them has, of course, introduced to a slight extent the principle of selection, and it was often perplexing to determine what should be considered a mere clerical error and what an ignorant writer's blunder: I have done the best I could in this difficulty.

The subject of the MS. must not be dismissed without noticing a curious feature, viz. the introduction occasionally of the Sacred Monogram JHS, or of invocations such as St. Maria, Caterina, orate, &c.; these occur, I think it will be noticed, at very critical junctures in the affairs of the University, as in the case of the death of the Duke of Gloucester, or the proposed burning at the stake (as

was reported) of Philipp Norreys at Oxford; and I take them to be expressions of the anxiety naturally then felt (135, 254).

There are, it may be noticed lastly, some articles here printed which have already been published; these, too, in accordance with the general plan of the work, have been preserved, the more willingly because they are not generally accessible.

As to the Latinity of these epistles, it is probably very much what any one acquainted with the Latin in use at that day would have expected, though, as has been already observed, the reader will find a considerable difference between the earlier and the later part of the work, the letters of the date of Dr. Chaundler's chancellorship being decidedly an improvement. I find, however, that the infima Latinitas has been enriched by a few words I have not elsewhere met with, as *raucesco*, *ramunculus*, *nullorsum*, and others which will occur to the reader. On the whole, what is surprising is not the faults of the language, but that it is not worse.

It is not easy for us to conceive what the difficulty must have been in acquiring and teaching even what was taught of the Latin language *without books*; and that literally is the problem that had to be solved (204, 178). The master lecturing, or, as we should say, giving the lesson, had of course a book, or portion of one, from which to dictate to the boys; the latter had none, the instruction was wholly oral. Without dictionaries or grammars, and in their Halls and Inns, crowded together as they certainly were without privacy or necessary quiet for preparation, it is difficult to conceive what must have been the discomfort, or worse, of the poor scholar in the long dark evenings of the autumn and winter terms, and what the labour of instruction during the hours of daylight. And it will be remembered that the Latin to be acquired was never considered at this time as an exercise of scholarship, a means to a cultured style, a classical education, but as a language, first for current use in disputations, chiefly logical and theological; and for those who, after attaining the M.A. degree, proceeded to the higher steps, as an instrument for opening the treasures of a student's life, and moving freely in a literature of which such Latin was the only source. The masters teaching had certainly some, but very few, books; and when it is said that the University had *no books*, it is meant literally that, except in the case of such masters who, from superior wealth, or probably from being members of some religious house in Oxford, or of one of the colleges, were so fortunate as to be provided with

such treasures, there were *no books*, and no library worth mentioning, to which the poor scholar (i. e. master) might have recourse. We speak now of *Latin* books, and it will be noted that the Duke of Gloucester in his posthumous gift specifies 'all his Latin books' (295, 298).

As to Greek, it is sufficiently well known that the study of that language did not exist at Oxford in the time included by the larger part of these epistles: one may almost say that the only traces we find of any knowledge of it are the signature of J. Farley, written on the margin in Greek character on two or three occasions, and in another single case that of William Grocin [Βιλελμος Γροκιν], similarly in Greek character. But the latter instance is not a signature, as the others are, at the foot of a document, but is on the superior margin of a folio: perhaps the work of Grocin himself; more probably of some admirer, pondering the prodigious knowledge of that scholar, and the possible effects of the new studies introduced into the University, while practising his hand, clearly unfamiliar with the strange characters.

While on this subject, perhaps some of my readers will excuse my introduction of a few specimens of the ignorance of Greek in those days, even among the best-educated clerks. In the *Legenda aurea* (by Jacobus de Voragine, Archbishop of Genoa at the end of the thirteenth century, and one of the most learned men of his time), a book of which Panzer enumerates no less than ninety-eight editions between the years 1470–1500; besides more than thirty translations, one of which is Caxton's *Golden Legend*, printed by him in 1483, and several times reprinted afterwards by Wynkyn de Worde, we find some very curious derivations. To the life of each Saint is prefixed an explanation of the meaning or origin of his name. Thus of Gregorius, we are told that the name is from '*grex*, et *gore* quod est praedicare. Agatha ab *agios* quod est *sanctus*, et *theos* quod est Deus. Katherina a *Katha* quod est *universum*, et *ruina*, quasi universalis ruina, omne enim diaboli edificium in ea universaliter corruit. Dionysius a *dya* quod est *duo*, et *nisus* quod est *elevatio*, quasi secundum duo elevatus, scilicet corpus et animam. Egidius, ab *e* quod est *sine*, et *geos terra*, et *dya clarum* sive *divinum*, fuit enim sine terra per terrenorum despectionem.' These are a few among very many, and suffice to show what educated Europe of that day accepted without correction in thousands of copies for many years. (I quote from a copy in my possession printed at Cologne in 1483.)

If the condition of learning among those who used this book may be inferred, as it surely may be, from this evidence, we can have no

hesitation in accepting as correct the generally received opinion that the Greek language was practically unknown; and the absence of any study of it in the Universities, until its introduction towards the close of the period embraced by the present MS., were there no other proofs, would be conclusively proved. When, under the influence of Grocin and Erasmus and their admirers and pupils, the attention of students was directed to this object, the study of the Greek language rapidly advanced, and soon asserted a foremost place in the 'curriculum' of the day.

The foregoing observations lead naturally to some notice of that which perhaps is the most prominent subject of the MS. under consideration, the Library of Oxford in the fifteenth century. It is not necessary to repeat here, what is well known from other sources of the meagre facts relating to libraries before existing at Oxford; and I do not know that any additional facts have been acquired; it was with the gifts and bequests of the Duke of Gloucester that a library began to exist in a form and to an extent capable of influencing and assisting students.

Bearing this in mind, it is easier to appreciate correctly the feelings of the University on the acquisition of these benefactions. The outpouring of gratitude they evoked may be read in these epistles in all its genuine extravagance (114, 139, 177, 184, 197, 203, 216, 240, 244, 254, 255).

If the first impression produced by reading these letters is one of amusement or even disgust at the extravagant eulogy and adulation bestowed upon the donor, I am inclined to think a more careful recognition of the circumstances, an effort to place ourselves in some measure in line with the state of society, so far as it can be known from the scanty records of that dark and troubled century of our history, may perhaps in no small degree tend to modify our more hasty judgement.

If there is one predominating colour, tinting or staining, so to speak, the whole picture of academic life, it is the gloomy shade of poverty—poverty, 'the stepmother of learning' (154, 115, 106–7). This it is that is always represented as the great hindrance to the student 'seeking in the vineyard of the Lord the pearl of knowledge' (71). This is the danger against which all the privileges of the University are granted to protect its members (56–58). The price of provisions is strictly guarded, and the civic authorities constrained to prevent exactions for this reason (40, 42). It is this, more or less,

that is the subject of the greater portion of the letters. Even those which do not directly mention or seem to relate to the subject, applications, for example, for the remitting of a member of the privilege to the Chancellor's Court, are in reality dictated by fear of the great expense a suit elsewhere would entail; and when, as so often happens, the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Lord Chancellor are implored to order their officials to recognize the claim of the Oxford Chancellor's Court to decide all cases of the kind, and send the accused to Oxford for that purpose, the real motive is the ruinous expense of lay courts; and this weak point in the armour of the University was being continually aimed at by the shafts of her enemies. The trial of a member of the privilege in a lay court seems to have been quite legal, if the University did not claim her privilege. Then, too, we cannot doubt, came in the exertion of backstairs influence of every kind, extortion of fees, and worse, inevitable bribes, unfortunately not only to the officials of the courts, but even to the very judges in some instances.

Again, it is the dread of diminution of fees to masters lecturing that calls forth some of the most earnest remonstrances, even to the king, against the grammar masters, who refused to pay them to Lecturers in Arts (210), and to the Duke of Gloucester begging him to use his influence with the Benedictines, whose scholars will not pay (77). This again is the cause of the anxiety about foreign priests shriving penitents at Oxford (322). The evil effects of the papal 'provision,' and the failure to execute the 'Provincial constitutions,' produce some of the most urgent, even eloquent, appeals to the Archbishops; chiefly on this account, that the hopelessness of promotion to benefices discouraged the poor clerks, whose life of labour and poverty found no reward (1, 153, 185). This is the reason for the dread lest the Benedictine scholars should leave the University (375), and for the lamentation over the diminution of men of rank and fortune among the graduates, and the consequent drying up of the source not only of fees, but of what was even more seriously felt, strange though it may seem—the feasts on inception. This is the plea for help to build the Schools[1] of Theology, Canon and Civil Law, and the Church of St. Mary's. This is, in fact, the invariable subject of the greater part of the letters: the dismal lament of all, from the Chancellor, who could not afford to retain the office

[1] The School of Medicine was repaired, it seems, wholly by the liberality of John Major (20).

he so efficiently discharged (247), to the learned but penniless masters (19), for whom no decent outfit of clothes, nor money for their journey, could be provided, to send a deputation to the council at Bâsle —(72), even to the poor boy who had to make his own clothes (596).

In this short sketch I cannot allow myself more on this subject; I must ask the reader to look at the epistles themselves; to all he will find an analysis prefixed, in some cases a long one, almost amounting to a translation where the matter seemed to deserve it; a method of treatment which, all things considered, appeared to be better than writing an introduction capable of really presenting a full view of the work, which, being so miscellaneous, and extending over so long a period, must have required another volume or more to do it justice.

In alluding to the poverty of the junior members of the University, that is to the boys at school at Oxford, it will be borne in mind that Oxford was in reality an assemblage of schools—private schools, but all under the same regulations, and governed by the same bonds of academic union and privilege. Every large religious house had its school, but otherwise the only schools were at the Universities, and here too the religious orders had their houses. The boys sent to school at Oxford remained there until the M.A. degree, which would usually be acquired before the age of twenty, after that age those who still resided at the University, and they were very numerous, pursued the study of the superior faculties of Theology, Canon and Civil Law, and Medicine, in which they graduated in due course. Now it was these latter (94, 81, 106), these who gave their lives to the pursuit of learning, on whom the burden of poverty fell with so heavy a weight, and it was to enable such men thus to remain after the M.A. degree that the colleges were founded, in which boys from scholars might proceed to Masters, and then to Bachelors in Theology or the other faculties, and lastly to Masters in those sciences, or as we now style them, Doctors.

It need not be supposed that any great anxiety would be felt about the maintenance of the scholars proper, whose parents or friends of course provided for them, and need not continue to keep them at Oxford—it was the difficulty of maintaining the struggling teachers, and the lack of any hope of sufficient provision for retirement for them, that seems to have been the great terror of University life. Nor need this surprise us, for literary work there was none, of course. The great resource of a Master so continuing to reside at Oxford was

the setting up of a Hall of his own, or rather the obtaining the principalship of any that became vacant; beyond this there were only the fees for teaching, always small and often precarious; there were celebrations of masses (71) at the numerous churches, feasts, or equivalents for them, at inceptions, loans from the chests—what else? We cannot feel our way in this darkness, but there is enough light to make us wonder not that the poverty was great, but that it was not even greater than these letters testify in one continual wail (151).

Now the pinch of poverty was most keenly felt in the impossibility of obtaining books; for of what use to him was the poor master's daily pittance, if that, for which alone he desired to live, was yet beyond his reach, and books from the very nature of the case were a luxury of the rich! They existed, of course, and were continually being multiplied, slowly, but probably more than enough to supply the waste, in the religious houses, where a scribe's room was always at work, in which copies were made of popular or necessary authors: some great personages, we know, collected them and possessed valuable libraries; there is evidence also that men in humbler life, merchants of London and the like, had at this time occasionally a taste for literature (222), and the difficulty experienced in gaining possession of the books bequeathed to the University clearly enough proves that this sort of property was greatly prized by many, and not always acquired with scrupulous honesty (483, 309, 318). But to the poor master, to whom they were the necessity of his life, they were a thing longed for with an ardent desire, treasured and read with an eagerness and enthusiasm, and loved with a tenderness unknown now, unless it be by the happy bibliophile, the possessor of a first edition.

To a society of this character, to sufferers in this extremity, appears on the scene of University life the great figure of Humfrey, Duke of Gloucester. The 'picturesque' morality, as it has been cynically called, of his private life, sufficiently hinted at in the advice of his medical adviser, Dr. Kymer (see Hearn, in his edition of *Liber niger Scaccarii*), were it not otherwise well known, in no way obscured the lustre of his renown; in an age indeed, when the divorce between religion and morality was so conspicuous, and when profligacy in high places evoked no surprise and little reprobation; when the popular literature of the time rather represented vice in the clergy as a subject of humour than of indignation, and when the most flagrant acts of

immorality were made the subjects of highly-spiced anecdotes, they were none the less regarded as the channels of divine grace, and the faults of the individual priest or nun were forgotten in veneration for the Church—the Church, notwithstanding all, ever the mother and home of all that was lovely in art, pure in earthly life, divine in heavenly hope. Add to this that the breaking up of the long night had already begun to be felt; and even in this remote island (203), as one of the letters says, the dawning of the new literature, at present but a thin streak of faint light on the horizon, heralded the approaching day; the internecine butcheries of the Wars of the Roses were rapidly exhausting the ancient feudal nobles, a citizen class (29) of conspicuous wealth, had already won an important influence, and an irrepressible impulse towards knowledge, the history of the past, the secrets of distance and futurity, had begun to enlarge the hitherto contracted, mental, political, and geographical limits of the Christian world. We shall not, I think, wonder at the fulsome epithets in which his character is lauded, the abject flattery in which his liberality to the University is recorded, for with whatsoever drawbacks it be weighted, when measured by the balance of a higher morality, the character of the Duke is remarkable, nay great. Almost alone of the laity in this country he stands forth the champion of culture, to revive the dying embers of learning or kindle the flame of a new literature. Nor could his advocacy of the Friars, of whose troublesome presence (161–7) in the University this MS. bears ample witness (161–7), blunt the keen sense of obligation or shake the solid foundation of obedience so great munificence had justly laid (166, 197). The admiration was, we may be sure, quite genuine, the gratitude altogether sincere, if not perhaps wholly free from that lively sense of future benefits which is said to be the constant symptom of its presence: it was with a firm faith in their own imperishable remembrance of his beneficence that they compared him with the heroes of antiquity, and esteemed him as a second founder of the University; and their last letter, not without a sad presage of his death, concludes with the wish that his life may be long here and everlasting hereafter.

But it was not so much to his actual benefactions as to his example that the great development of the library, and of the University generally, traced their source during the remainder of the century. Whether the intentions of the Duke of Bedford (94) to found lectures were ever carried into effect, we are not distinctly informed in this volume; if they were, then his foundation pre-

ceded that of his brother the Duke of Gloucester, and the will, if not the deed, should be remembered; but howsoever that may be, the example of Duke Humfrey was speedily followed by others, considerable, if not so great as his; and while the public buildings above-mentioned were either rebuilt or now first built in Oxford, the endowment of lectures, useless without books, also commenced at this period of its history; and in a general sense, before the century closes, the whole scene has greatly changed. The old things of mediaeval Oxford had already begun to pass away, the new learning had become firmly rooted, and the advance of the new religion, the not distant rumbling of that disturbance of the lower strata of society which was shortly to upheave the surface of political and religious thought, was not obscurely apprehended and foretold (359); so that I think it may even be asserted with confidence that the efforts to build the Schools of Theology and Canon Law, and the rash but successful venture to rebuild St. Mary's Church, the heart and centre of Academic life and religious teaching, were but the signs of a deep-seated conviction that the old faith needed more earnest advocacy, better education, more special studies.

On these points some of the letters are most explicit, and the remonstrances most earnest, as the abuses of which they complain were most flagrant and unquestionable (151, 3, 169). It was thought, and the thought was plainly expressed, that the heresies, with which the ecclesiastical horizon was darkened, were rapidly spreading and threatening a storm capable of rending the kingdom asunder (359). For these existing and impending calamities, the promotion of illiterate men to benefices, and the consequent failure of efficient ministrations in the parishes throughout the country, is held responsible; and bitter are the complaints, and earnest the oft-repeated prayers, representing the dangers of this state of things; and also the disastrous effect upon the Universities and learning generally produced by the fatal discouragement of laborious and learned clerks, who failed to obtain promotion, lingering in poverty and neglect in Oxford, while they saw men promoted over their heads who could neither read nor write; and more than once the request is urged that the intercession of St. Frideswyde may be invoked throughout the province of Canterbury to check the spread of wickedness and insubordination, and foster with her effectual benediction the growth of piety and the prosperity of learning (360–2).

Sufficient has been said to show how important was the patronage

of the Duke of Gloucester, how inexpressibly valuable his powerful championship and donations of books: for greater detail the reader must be content to refer to the letters themselves.

We have said above that his example was speedily followed, and it will perhaps be not unwelcome to the reader if the progress of the library is here shortly traced. In this too, as in the case of endowment of lectures, the Duke of Bedford's name precedes that of his brother, and his gift of books is clearly acknowledged (81), but does not seem to have been one of great magnitude; moreover, to go farther back, Henry the Fifth had anticipated both, by a bequest of books, which however had not been obtained by the University in 1437, and whether it was eventually received or not we have no information. So tardy and so difficult was the making of the road to learning, so unwilling were those who held them to surrender the books they had in charge (150–2).

The next notice of the subject is in a letter of thanks to the Duke of Gloucester (114) for a gift of books and money, but no mention is made either of the names or nature of the former or of the amount of the latter; but only two years later, in 1439, commences that succession of life-giving showers wherewith 'the vineyard' was rendered fruitful, and from which an abundant supply of oil from the 'olive-trees' of the University might be expected by the Church.

The benefactions of the Duke, of which we have specific notice, are four in number; of the first of these, valued at more than a thousand pounds (184), we have an indenture of receipt between the University and the Duke, containing the names of each book, marked, as was usual, in the first words of the second folio; but it is not a little singular that the number of the books is variously stated as 120 in one place, 126 in another, and, in a third, 129 volumes. Of the fourth donation also, we have a similar catalogue in an indenture of the same description (232); this consisted of 135 volumes. Of the two intervening donations, we have no further record beyond the facts that one consisted of seven and the other of nine books. Altogether there were, then, 280 volumes, besides the donation, of which no particulars at all are given, as above noted (114). These were all, no doubt, duly received, though of the two smaller gifts no indenture is forthcoming.

But besides these, the Duke being, it appears, in the Congregation-house shortly before his death, did by word of mouth then and there, in the presence of a large assemblage of Masters (252), promise to

give them all his Latin books (*quos studio dignos arbitratus est*) (294–5), 'to the lovyng of God, increce of Clergy and connyng men, to the gode governaunce and prosperite of the Realme of Englond withouten ende,' and often afterwards confirmed the promise by messenger, and eventually bequeathed the books in his will (ibid.). Unfortunately when his death took place the books had not been actually received, and we have a protracted struggle represented to us in the numerous epistles to the King, the Marquess of Suffolk, W. Waynflete, Dr. Somersett, the House of Commons, the executors of the Duke and others, whose aid or influence is implored to obtain possession of them (251, 258, 285). It would seem that the books had found their way into other hands (318), and the executors themselves do not escape the imputation of having appropriated them; at least that is the inevitable conclusion to be drawn from the outspoken letter addressed on the subject to Dr. Somersett (286), one of the staunchest friends, be it remembered, of the University.

Whether or no these books ever came to the library, we have no evidence in the volume before us. From a letter to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, asking his help in the matter, we find that the collection of books by private individuals was not uncommon; and the superior claims of the University to the possession of these treasures and the greater utility of them where they would be in constant use is strongly urged as a reason for the employment of his powerful assistance to obtain them. Eventually an agent was appointed (358), more than twenty years later, with authority to collect by every possible means all books and other property whatsoever belonging to the University, to prosecute in spiritual and lay courts any one unlawfully detaining the same, and with powers to grant acknowledgement of receipt of them when duly delivered. We find from a letter to the Bishop of London (483), after a lapse of ten more years, that thirteen volumes were recovered by his instrumentality, but it is probable these were not a portion of the Duke's bequest. The effort to obtain that must, one would suppose, have collapsed in so long and weary a pursuit. But, in any case, these thirteen volumes could have been but a small fraction of all the Duke's Latin books.

What may have been the contents of this last bequest of the Duke, we do not know; we are told it consisted of 'all his Latin books proper for study,' and again, 'scole' books, expressions which are, I think, significant, and plainly imply that they were of a different

character from those contained in the two large donations of which we have catalogues in the indentures. It will probably not be without surprise that these catalogues will be perused by one who inquires into the course of reading and study generally, both at the University and among the learned laity of the day. Consisting mainly of theological, medical, legal, and philosophical works, with several copies of the Italian poets so greatly affected by the Duke, but with only a comparatively slender contingent of classical authors of antiquity, and with very little that could be useful to the scholar on his way to his M.A. degree, to whom we find the bulk of the works would be unattractive, nay, to speak plainly, useless. And useless to us they would no doubt be found, but I would venture to remind some of my readers, who may not be aware how greatly we are indebted to the laborious writers of such works, that from these in great measure has been compiled, i. e. stolen without acknowledgement, nearly all the divinity, the foundation of laws, and much of medical knowledge not yet superseded. But, as has been above stated, the books were not wanted, and could not be used by the youths preparing for the M.A. degree. The learned masters, we repeat, were those who stood in such need of them, and to these the gifts we speak of were a priceless boon, spending, as they often did, their whole time in the sole pursuit of such learning as was prescribed for them by the Academical course, and afterwards finding in it the employment of a studious life.

The practical disappearance of such a class of students from our modern Universities diverts our sympathies, and directs our inquiries to the younger scholars, and we naturally ask how were their needs relieved or their position improved by the beneficence of Duke Humfrey. It cannot be for a moment supposed that these boys were or could be permitted to use the library—their numbers, very probably at some periods amounting to as many as two thousand, or even more, would render such an indulgence impracticable—nor is there in the statute for the regulation of the library any mention of others than Masters of Arts, at the least, who should be entitled to such a privilege; and even for them the space contained in the old library was soon found altogether too narrow, so that with the augmentation of the books came the need urgently felt for a more commodious receptacle for them (244, 390). Nor, again, had the boys leisure for such a purpose; their time was occupied in their lectures, i. e. lessons, for which they wanted no books, the instruction being wholly oral, writing from dictation,

and so forth. Only indirectly, then, did they find themselves benefited by these splendid acquisitions to the library, so that when we read of the crowds of eager students intent on the books (*gregatim incumbunt*, 245, 258), we must not picture to ourselves a spirit of emulation among schoolboys, or young men such as our modern undergraduates, or draw an invidious comparison between the two periods, in favour of either according to our private sympathies; but we must revive a throng of mature men (154, 156, 362), among whom many already advanced in age; in many cases their dress is no longer new, their features too often suggest a lack of comfort, but their thirst for learning is strong; it is a passion, it is a means of rising to a higher level not only in the social scale, though there too it was nearly the only avenue to rank and power; for thus not only might the most needy rise to the highest dignity the Church—and that was also the world—could bestow, but they felt it alone could raise them 'above the beasts' (139, 169), a thought and motive often expressed in these letters and felt, in a manner we hardly now realize, in that ignorant and brutal stage of society. These were the students, from whom rose the chorus of gratitude and praise, when the munificent gifts of the Duke revealed to them the unwonted marvel, that one of the greatest of statesmen and warriors, of royal birth and noble fortune, whose life had been spent in courts and camps, yet through all, and, it seemed, above all, retained a cultured taste and educated mind, and a practical charity to the needy clerk.

But the fame of the newly-endowed library was not confined to the students of this country; we read that they flocked hither from 'every part of the world' (178), and that incessant was the toil by night as well as by day of those, who came from foreign parts as well as from every corner of England, to make copies of the books; and moreover that the nucleus now established speedily began to attract from Greece and Italy and from every country a continual stream of books (202), and not only so, but that the original Greek (240, 244) language was now within the reach of all. This is a very remarkable letter, and the more so, because in the catalogue of the Duke's books it is doubtful whether we find any Greek book in the Greek tongue; but since all the books given by the Duke of Gloucester have long since disappeared from the library—unless the single specimen, which the late librarian (Mr. Cox) told me remained there, yet exists—we cannot be satisfied on this point.

Such are the readers, each, I suppose, intent on making his copy of

some work long hopelessly desired and now at last within his reach; though with very strict limitations, for the statute prescribes that every book shall be carefully kept in a chest, and that the librarian or chaplain of the University shall have custody thereof. On no pretext whatever could any book be borrowed except under an indenture, and since probably even these restrictions proved ineffectual, the books were afterwards chained to the oak desks, as we find in the case of certain books of a later donation (544). This last precaution was taken not so much to prevent possible theft, for any attempt at such a crime must have been detected, first by the constant presence of the librarian, whose eye, in so small a chamber, could scarcely fail to observe it, but also by the system of marking in the register every book so that it would be infallibly recognized by the University stationer; the purpose was rather to prevent the monopoly of any book by one reader, and obviate confusion in the library. The chief occupation of the readers was, I think, that of making copies of the books, first because any real effectual study of a particular book by one reader must have been almost impracticable under the circumstances, and secondly because such copying is clearly recognized as the natural object of readers, for special restrictions are introduced in the statute for the regulation of the library, to the effect that under no circumstances shall any book be divided into parts and lent to be copied in that condition (188), and even the Duke himself could only borrow any book he himself had given by signing an indenture (ibid.).

These gifts and bequests of the Duke were followed by others, hardly less important though, as might be expected, not so highly valued or welcomed with such enthusiasm. Of these, the first is but a single book, *Josephus*, given by a citizen of London, one Thomas Knolle3, a grocer and a specimen of the rising class of wealthy merchants, whose cultivated tastes in art and literature began to mark a new era of civilization (222). This was a specially acceptable gift, indicating, as it did, an interest in education on the part of such citizens, whose good offices would be so efficacious in advancing the interests of the University and strengthening the true faith; we shall not be surprised therefore to read that the 'beatific vision' will doubtless be the reward of all such as shall thus exert themselves by using their worldly wealth for the glory of God. Next we have a gift of the *De natura rerum* of Alexander Neckham, presented by Master Somersett, a famous doctor of medicine (309, 285) and, if I am not

mistaken, a supervisor of the faculty sworn before the Lord Mayor along with Gilbert Kymer (see *Memorials of the Craft of Surgery*, by Darcy Power). The same Dr. Somersett likewise gave other books (313) and vestments for use in St. Mary's, and if his beneficence did not evoke so much gratitude as that of others, perhaps the reason may be found in a letter of a very remarkable nature addressed to him by the University, wherein more than a suspicion is plainly expressed that this distinguished son of their common mother, nourished at her breast, was, while presenting his gift, nevertheless privy to the designs of those who were wrongfully detaining the much-needed 'Latin books,' if not himself personally guilty of that dishonest conduct (285).

A little later comes a gift of several books by Master Richard Broun, *alias* Cordon, a donation qualified by a stipulation, found in no other instance, that the donor shall be allowed free use of the books during his life, and even be entitled to remove them at will, either in person or by his messenger, from the custody of the librarian (279). Of a donation by the Duchess of Suffolk, we have no more precise account than a general acknowledgement of the gift in a letter of thanks (326); but of the gift of his *Propinarium*, by the famous Abbot of St. Alban's, John Whethamstede, we have an amusing record in the characteristic letter of thanks addressed to him (373). The only other donor of a single volume is Master T. Graunt, Precentor of St. Paul's, who presented to the library 'suavissimum librum,' but of this we have no further description (382). It is difficult to suppose there were no other such benefactions of single books; none, however, are recorded, though larger bequests and gifts were soon to follow. The first of these is that of J. Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, whose literary tastes were not incompatible with a character in strong contrast to the adage 'ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes, emollit mores nec sinit esse feros.' To him we find a most fulsome letter of flattery, and that is nearly all the meaning to be extracted from it, so full is it of mistakes and imperfections. I suppose that, after the death of the Duke of Gloucester, the University, casting about for support and countenance among the rich, and especially those with a reputation for learning, turned its eyes to the Earl of Worcester and approached him with the hope of enlisting his sympathy as a patron in some degree calculated to replace the irreparable loss they had sustained. Their efforts were so far successful, that it was found upon his death that he had bequeathed

a large number of books to the University estimated to be of the value of not less than five hundred marks (390). We have no information as to what was the nature of the books; and whether they were ever received or not remains unknown, though we are told that thirteen volumes were recovered from wrongful possessors (483), but whether these were a portion of the Gloucester or Tiptoft bequests, or of what other source, is nowhere mentioned.

And now the difficulty experienced in obtaining possession of such bequests was not thrown away; for it was felt, and none too soon, that since the many urgent letters to the great and powerful sons of their mother the University proved ineffectual, some more direct steps must be taken both to recover, if possible, what was still outstanding, and to prevent losses of a similar kind in future; and accordingly in the year 1471 Master Whitley was appointed agent, accredited by a patent letter to that effect, to collect and receive all books and other property of the University whatsoever and by whomsoever detained, to prosecute in any spiritual or temporal court any persons illegally detaining them, and empowered to give a sufficient discharge for their receipt (358).

That the library continued to grow, receiving other accessions than those here noticed, is, as has been suggested above, very probable, and that this really happened is the more likely, because hitherto no great difficulty is found to have been felt in housing the books; though the narrow limits of the room were rendered yet narrower by the system of storing the books in chests, which must have been of great size (189): but now the prospect of further additions made it evident that, unless better accommodation could be provided, it would not be possible to place the books in security, and at the same time provide necessary room for the constantly increasing number of readers. With this in view, the University addresses an urgent appeal to the Bishop of Norwich, whose beneficence was well known, begging for his assistance in the erection of a suitable building (390). The site proposed was over the new Theology School, not yet completed, after the lapse of nearly sixty years (5, 469), and this plan was apparently approved by the Duke of Gloucester as being both a retired and convenient situation (244), in strong contrast with the situation of the old library.

And now there was a solid ground for hope that the long lingering Theology School would at last be completed by the magnificent liberality of Thos. Kempe, Bishop of London, whose donation of one thousand

marks made the accomplishment of the work not so much a question of expense, as of finding competent workmen and sufficient scaffolding and machines. Of the latter difficulty a solution was at hand, for W. Waynflete's new college was only just completed, and the scaffolding would serve the purpose for the new school and library excellently well. To W. Waynflete, then, application is made (443). And workmen could be engaged if the king would allow any such no longer needed by the king himself to be employed on the new school (446). All seems to have gone smoothly, the chief obstacle being removed by the munificence of Thos. Kempe. The work went briskly forward; and one of the liveliest letters in the volume is that in which the busy labours of the builders are described, though the engagement of the architect and stonemason and their remuneration are also not without a special interest (46, 191); not perhaps so much as exhibiting the rates of payment for such services at that date, as for the curious information about the ornamentation of the building as originally designed, but afterwards abandoned (ibid.). Others had from time to time contributed both in materials and in money; a certain Edmund Reed, esquire, especially is noticed as having given timber for the work, but it languished for many years from inability to provide the needful money, and it certainly is due to Thos. Kempe alone that the completion of the work at last, after two generations had seen its unfinished walls looking out over the ramparts on the neighbouring house of the Austin friars, crowned the efforts of the builders. This, it may be mentioned, for the sake of those not well acquainted with such details, is the building at this day known as the Divinity School, and Duke Humfrey's Library over it, and the writer may perhaps venture to add that it has been not without certain pleasure that the whole of the work of writing the present volumes has been done in that venerable room sheltered beneath the very rafters, lighted by the very windows of the days long passed away.

To recompense in any commensurate degree the donor of the books was of course impossible; the University had but one resource —thanks and praise in the present, and prayers and masses for his soul after death in the future. For these due provision is made in the statute for his commemoration, and the bitterest drop in their cup was the thought that he was mortal (227), a foreboding prompted perhaps by the anticipation of actual danger or, perhaps merely expressing a natural apprehension of the loss of a life so

valuable. Nor were similar honours, a similar recompense, wanting in the case of Thos. Kempe, for whose commemoration, with that of his uncle, due provision is made, with one somewhat businesslike stipulation, viz. that not until after the completion of the payment of the one thousand marks, which was to be made by instalments, should any such prayers or masses be said (434).

From what has been now said, it will be seen that the library in all probability increased quickly by other donations not here mentioned. We are told that not only was there a great influx of readers, but that this influx was in no small degree augmented by foreigners, and that Greek and Latin books also began to be attracted to Oxford; every possible effort, moreover, was made by the University to augment their store; we have with this view several letters, written to the executors of persons known to be possessed of books, begging them to give for the use of the library some of the property of the deceased (277, 281), among whom we have another citizen of London, John Gedney. The executors were empowered to make such gifts for pious uses, and are reminded that by them the cause of true religion will be advanced, by furnishing the soldiers of the Church with the weapons of its earthly warfare. No further large accession, however, is recorded in this MS. for some years, the next in order being a promise of some, number not stated, by the Bishop of London (533); and shortly afterwards, in a letter of thanks without address, an unknown benefactor is thanked for a present of thirty books and one on medicine, which he is told are, in accordance with his request, chained in the library (544).

Lastly, there is the large number of one hundred and thirty-two volumes given by the bountiful Dr. Lichfield, Archdeacon of Middlesex; for whose exceeding liberality both in this matter and also in the rebuilding of St. Mary's Church, to which he was the chief contributor (571, 630), we cannot pass unnoticed the comparatively slender meed of thanks and praise accorded to him, in contrast with the extravagant adulation exhibited in the case of more exalted patrons.

But while we acknowledge some little feeling of surprise, perhaps even of disappointment, on this score, it must not be forgotten that there is a probable, nay an undoubted, reason for a diminution of the gratitude of the University for this kind of benefaction; for of course MS. books must at this date (1489) have become very considerably reduced in value by the rapid advance of the art of printing, already in

1468, as Wood asserts, introduced into Oxford; and his statements on this subject, especially that he saw a book, which he names, there printed in 1481, should need no confirmation, though the reader of that portion of his history will desiderate references to those authorities and sources of information, so numerous in the historical part of his work. It is remarkable, to say no more, that not the faintest allusion to the art of printing is to be detected in our MS., and yet surely in Oxford, if anywhere, the minds of men must have been greatly occupied by this discovery, without which we, who look back, plainly discern that neither the liberality nor the enlightened example of Duke Humfrey, Thos. Kempe, and the rest of the heroes of the library could have failed to produce more than a feeble wave of that tide of literature already visibly rolling forward to swallow up the laborious products of the past.

In this connexion it is not without interest to notice the Latin authors read in Oxford at this time; I speak not of the text-books used by the masters in their lessons, but of the authors with whom the senior members of the University were familiar, so far as we are able to judge from quotations in these letters. Though these are not what we can consider any equipment for a scholar at the present day, yet the list is on the whole better than might have been expected. Cicero is quoted or mentioned on sixteen occasions, Virgil several times, Horace, Terence, Sallust, Seneca, Aristotle, Plato (these two last from translations), all are met with in more than one, some of them in several instances. To these should be added a considerable number of historical allusions hardly to be discovered in these authors, the source of which certainly may be found in the Duke's donations, and I think may fairly be taken to imply a considerable knowledge of more ancient authors than at first sight we should have been inclined to put to the credit of the student of those days, the direction of whose mind was so widely separated from the pursuit of such studies.

If it be thought, and it may be so with reason, that the quotations and allusions to ancient classical history are of the most elementary character, and rather savour of a schoolboy's early essays than the solid learning of reverend masters and doctors; when we find Romulus and Camillus, Achilles and Hector, Alexander the Great, Pompey, Hannibal and the like made to do duty in comparison with the Duke of Gloucester, and the several other benefactors, whose praises are thus enhanced, and with the several kings whose patron-

age is successively sought in such hyperbolic eulogium; it must be remembered, I think, that in the case of most, if not all of the persons to whom such letters were addressed, we may fairly give the writers credit for selecting such historical characters and allusions as they considered were certainly within the somewhat narrow limits of the erudition of the laity of the period; that, in short, their object was not to display their own learning, but to flatter the patron they addressed.

Some remarks have above been made on the language of the epistles in this collection, and no more need be said on that subject, but the style and matter of them suggest a few observations; for here we have a very vivid portraiture of some of the most distinctive characteristics of academic life, thought, and feeling. 'Alma mater' is an expression familiar to us all, though it may be doubted whether the full significance of the words is often appreciated. It is but a part of a complete system of allegorical and metaphorical language, expressing no mere poetic fancy, no mere figure of speech or empty ornament of diction, but a sincere, powerful, and effectual appeal to the strongest affections and the most solemn sense of piety and duty. With us it has faded into something hardly more substantial than a humorous reminiscence of undergraduate life, almost meaningless if not flatly ridiculous. To our forefathers it was far otherwise. It must not be forgotten how widely different were the conditions of the student's life in those days from anything with which we are now conversant. The large majority were quite boys, a very considerable proportion mere children, who, once committed to the care of the University, remained there with but few and short intervals until the attainment of the M.A. degree, and to many of them it was expected, and in fact proved, to be their home for life.

Again the very great preponderance of the priesthood, and consequent renunciation of family ties by the large majority of the resident masters, suggested with a peculiar force the creation of fictitious bonds of relationship, and gave them a reality and strength which rooted them in the heart and became a powerful motive of action and guide of conduct in life. When the Bishop of Salisbury writes to say he will bring E. Pole to Oxford, he does but use language expressing the universal sentiment, when he says he will come to lay the noble infant in his mother's lap (461), and the University in their turn reply that he thereby furnishes a proof they did not need of his own filial piety (455, 7). If any privilege of the University was threatened with viola-

tion, the Lord Chancellor is appealed to as a son by his mother, complaining that while she is in labour bringing forth the fruits of learning, she is attacked by unnatural sons (97). If an excuse is needed for asking help to rebuild St. Mary's, the writers say that the natural affection children feel for their parents bids them plead for the church of their mother, to whom they owe, not indeed their natural being, but more—education to a virtuous life.

And if the care of their mother and her incessant vigilance were ever on the alert to relieve her sons from the anxiety of poverty, and to protect them from loss and injury, she was not less solicitous for the welfare of those who left her household and were launched on the stormy sea of the outside world; following their course and accompanying them on their journey by testimonial letters bearing witness to their blameless conduct and proved erudition, their undisputed orthodoxy, or their ministerial abilities; or sometimes she would back their suits, to pope, king, or bishop, and commend them to all and sundry by whom preferment could be given, or from whom advancement or assistance might be expected; and to whom the writers express their hope that, though he to whom they address themselves be rather of an age when the title of father would be more appropriate, he will not disdain to be called a son. As the mother of Zebedee's children she entreats for her sons, as the woman of Canaan she perseveres in her prayer for them (46, 102). As Rachel for her lost children, she mourns the dwindling numbers of her sons (57, 155, 494), when from scarcity of provisions, the disastrous effect of the protracted and desolating war, the University finds her members so scanty that halls and inns are closed. If, when asked for help, they respond with liberality, she rejoices that they are so successful in life, and that she has been so favoured as to have given birth to sons so distinguished (120, 309), and whose gratitude does not suffer them to forget the mother that suckled them in their infancy. The idea, or allegory, is indeed worked out in every detail, of which the foregoing are but a few specimens, and is made the basis upon which favours are entreated, obedience claimed, and every appeal for sympathy is made more or less to rest. The evil reputation of stepmothers is not forgotten, but repeatedly pressed into the service; while the University is the mother, poverty is the stepmother, of learning, whose malign influence, if it be not counteracted by the charity of their more prosperous brethren, must blast the scholar's life, extinguish the flame of science and virtue, the learning which raises man above the beasts

and lifts him up to heaven (139, 169), and whose loss, to use Seneca's expression, would be no less than a separation of soul and body (291). Thus (117) also in the testimonial letters, though not in all, it is declared that what is done for the advancement of one benefits the whole body corporate.

But if the motherhood of the University was practically asserted and incessantly claimed, the brotherhood of its members was not less constantly inculcated, but was also actually cemented, not by figurative and allegorical terms, but by very real and tangible means. Again, every step in the scholar's career, every office in the University, from the Chancellor downwards, was defined and guarded by most solemn and stringent oaths (159), to break which we find, even in so small a matter as necessary residence (8), was deemed to require nothing less than a papal dispensation: and it is not a little significant that the crime of perjury, involved in any violation of such oaths, and the summons to appear before the Chancellor at St. Mary's for the 'correction of the soul' (318), involved the penalty of excommunication, with deprivation of degrees, banishment, &c. (450). Even the failure to pay the fee for licence in Arts, or to faithfully render an account by the guardian of a chest, seems to have involved these most alarming consequences. Similarly stringent, and obeyed with more ready allegiance, were those oaths by which all masters were bound to cast their votes, at elections of officers of the University, without fear or favour; and it is not without a feeling of astonishment, if not of admiration, that we witness the steadfastness with which this poor brotherhood of defenceless clerks stood shoulder to shoulder and defied the king and their greatest friend their Chancellor, declining on more than one occasion to elect a bedel at their nomination (663), or to surrender a political offender 'lurking' in Oxford (513–523).

The privileges of the University and their violation, either by her own unnatural sons or by the townsmen or others, chiefly in suing members of the privilege in a court other than that of the Chancellor, are a very frequent subject of these letters: and though her purse was short, her arms were long, and they were stretched out in urgent entreaty for help to maintain the fortress and repel the foe. Every son educated by his mother and successful in the world was another source of strength and aid in time of need. No sooner is one such appointed to any office or dignity in Church or State than he receives a letter of congratulation on his great promotion, and of thankfulness to God for the good influence he cannot fail to

exert in the discharge of his duties; and for having raised up such a pillar of strength in a son who will never fail to remember the debt of gratitude he will ever owe to the mother whose *ubera nectarea sugebat* (120). The other great difficulty the University had to contend with was the exactions of the town and civic officers (40, 108, 343), and both in this case and in the former it was the poverty of the University that was the weak point; in the one, the ruinous expenses of suits (143) from the venality of justice (649), the remoteness of the lay courts and consequent difficulty of obeying the citations and providing for the attendance of witnesses; in the other the extortionate prices of provisions and rents of houses alike struck at the very life of the University.

Thus, then, this 'city of the priests,' protected from without by the rampart of privilege, and defended within by the solidarity of the garrison, united by the closest bonds of motherhood and brotherhood; whose members felt their mutual sympathies and interests knit ever more firmly by that most enduring of all affections, which grows up between those who have lived long together in the same society in pursuit of the same studies (658); armed with books, the weapons of the soldier of the Church (281, 296), waged a bloodless warfare (300) against the enemies of the true faith (41, 168, 226, 338), the vices of a brutal age, and the furious hostility of the world both to learning and religion (359, 604). And it is to their sympathy with this noble struggle that we see constant appeal made to the friends of civil order in the state, orthodoxy in the Church, and virtue and science everywhere. The writers are well aware that the affection of parents for their children is greater than that of the children for the parents (664), yet they urge the claim that parents have to the honour and respect of their offspring and to their help in time of need; to the House of Commons they plead that the University is the 'moder lanterne and welle of the clergy' (294), and entreat that, if the design of taking away again (*resumptio*) of the lands given for pious uses by the king be indeed carried into effect, at least the endowments of the colleges may be excepted; foundations 'of piouse intencione to ye worship of God and encrese of holy fayth by diverse sciencys and vertus of home growyt' (294).

It will be noticed that the metaphorical figures and allegorical language employed, of which only a specimen here and there are here quoted in this introduction, are exceedingly numerous, and may be said to pervade the whole of the volume; but those of most frequent

occurrence are such as belong to the description of the University and its individual members, and cannot fail to depict in a vivid light how great is the contrast between these letters—all of which are, as we should express it, on business—and such as would be written on similar subjects at the present day. In defence of the privilege, the King or Lord Chancellor are reminded that the University is the vineyard of the Lord, and that vainly is it fenced about (193) if the fences are not maintained; if the whirlwinds of political strife devastate the labours of the husbandman, and if no defenders prevent the enemy from leaping over the boundaries, or the beasts of the field from devouring the fruits. Here are planted the olive-trees, from which alone can be produced the oil of sound doctrine; here the pearl of great price, science and virtue, is the object of the student's incessant toil; who, if not sustained and refreshed by the streams of charity, must wither in the arid soil of poverty, and bring no fruit to perfection. If the Pope, or some great prelate, is exhorted to remember the mother of so many, who have grown up to become 'fathers rather than sons,' he is compared to some stately cedar, beneath whose beneficent protection the humble shrubs find shelter.

To these might be added many more similar figures, and especially such as are of most frequent occurrence; as that of the ship tossed on the waves of the troubled world and steered by the 'Nauta indefectibilis'; together with such other imagery as belongs to the several parables, and in particular those derived from agriculture; but enough has been said to give an idea of the general texture of the letters to any who may read this introduction and not find time or inclination for a more close acquaintance with the pages that follow it. No more is here attempted on this part of the subject; but there are yet a few points deserving notice—amusing characteristics of the writers. Not the least of these is the scrupulous care everywhere taken to adapt the address and language of the epistles to the quality, position, or character of those to whom they are written. The example of Thetis in her prayer to Zeus is continually borne in mind, and the patron is ever reminded how great have been his kindness and care in the past; sometimes, indeed, it is to be feared, not without some sacrifice of truth, as when in soliciting from the black monks a contribution for the new Theology School, they are flattered by being told that the University owes its foundation to them (21). When it is proposed to invite the assistance of the wealthy citizens of London in furtherance of the same object, the Master of St. Thomas' (29) is asked to give

his advice on the style of letter to be used to the greatest advantage; how, as it is expressed, 'to cast the net on the right side of the ship': the useful topics of flattery in the case seem to have been familiar, 'cives venerabiles, qui divitiis fulgent, devotione relucent et largitate precellunt, nobiliores in dignitate, potentiores in thesauris,' and what is certainly not a little difficult to understand, '*praeclariores in forma*'; for how or why the wealthy citizens should possess peculiar personal attractions is at least a puzzling inquiry. The Chancellor, however, though furnished with all these means of stimulating their charity, did not feel confident that he could throw his net over any miraculous draught.

When the succour of the secular arm is invoked to repress disorders beyond the apostolic (318, 449) or academic powers of the Chancellor to control, the Earl of Warwick is told that power and knowledge must assist each other, for military force will fail if not directed by wisdom (56); and the Duke of Bedford, whose sympathy with learning had already been proved by substantial assistance of the poor clerks (53, 81), and was expected to be further manifested by a foundation of lectures (106), is flattered by the evidence of history to show that learning is the defence of kingdoms. In a similar style of mingled exhortation and supplication, the Earl of Stafford is implored to interfere to quell the disturbance in the University, because rulers are therefore intrusted with the sword that they may maintain peace and do justice. When the Earl of Northumberland endows University College, 'our eldest daughter,' with the advowson of Arncliffe, he is comforted by the assurance that immortal honour is by no actions so surely obtained as by those that foster the true faith and provide medicine for the soul (220). When the University firmly but respectfully declines to readmit Morgan Philipp to residence at the request of Henry VI (264), we shall note the grounds on which the refusal is made, and see an adaptation of the phraseology to the known religious character of the king; as also in the letter of congratulation to the same monarch on his recovery of the throne, wherein the examples of David and Solomon are made to do duty in enforcing the rhetoric (392).

On the other hand, we shall find no scriptural allusions or religious language in the epistles to Edward IV. His zeal for the faith is thankfully acknowledged, his beautiful buildings are duly praised, his favour to the clergy and unsparing efforts to extirpate heresy are gratefully admired, but the pious argument *ad hominem* is lacking. Henry VII, again, whose pretension to learning and practical wisdom,

in addition to the glory of victory, were sufficiently well known, finds these qualities indirectly attributed to him in the comparison of his character to that of Hannibal and Alexander the Great, whose exploits in war were equalled by his wisdom in his patronage of the 'University' of Athens (500), the noblest action of his glorious life. Similar adaptation is observable in a very conspicuous degree in the case of Richard III, to whom unselfish aims, true patriotism and zeal for the glory of God, are attributed in language only to be accounted for on the supposition; either that his assumption of such a character was well known to the writers, who dexterously made use of it to obtain his favour; or, which is conceivable, that they really believed in the reality of his pretended claims, and, immersed in the labours of teaching and study, had but a slender acquaintance with the greater world: conceivable, but not probable; for, so far as these letters throw any light on the subject, they would incline us to think that those who directed the lesser politics of the Oxford world were shrewd, practical men, and exhibited no lack of practical wisdom in their dealings with those in power. I am afraid we cannot acquit the writers of unblushing flattery, in this, as in other instances, affecting a recognition of false claims, rather than expressing a sincere appreciation of true character.

To turn to a lighter shade of the same portraiture of these letters; not infrequently it was considered to be in good taste to make the name of the person addressed a sort of humorous vehicle to convey a compliment, or a motive for complying with the request of the writer. So Geoffrey Simeon, Dean of the Chapel Royal, is assured that the devout Simeon felt not greater joy receiving the Saviour in his arms than does the University in having educated so distinguished a son (684). And when John Whethampstead (Johannes de loco frumenti) presents his work, the *Propinarium*, to the library, his gift is gratefully acknowledged, with the remark that the Duke of Gloucester had already provided food by giving the author's other work, the *Granarium*, and now they found themselves able also to slake their thirst from this other production of his pen; adding, in a similar strain, their intention to pray that, though he may have to suffer thirst in this mortal life, he may drink from the eternal fountain in the life to come (373). This was considered a very pretty compliment, no doubt; but very different are some of the modes of thought or expressions then esteemed both appropriate and not irreverent; and it requires some effort to place oneself in the circumstances of the writer to be

able to read without a distinct shock of surprise, if of no stronger emotion, the language employed in thanking the king for his intention both to provide for the good education of his own children and, which was of more importance to the University, to allow his nephew, E. Pole, to be sent to Oxford for that purpose. As the King of Kings, he is gravely told, selected the Jewish nation from all the world, and made His Son to be incarnate of that chosen race, so had he chosen Oxford to be the special object of his favour: to whom, then, could he more prudently commit the care of this adopted child of God than to the University, wherein would then be living a likeness of his own glory (456)!

Of the letters to the kings generally, it may be noticed that all are conceived in somewhat more of stately style and language, as might be expected; but with few exceptions, the one, or rather two, all-engrossing subjects, poverty and privilege, the relief of the one and the maintenance of the other, are the monotonous burden of the melancholy ditty. It is significant that while in every other instance a congratulatory letter greets the king on his accession, we do not find one to have been written to Edward IV; though on his *recovery* of the throne, the joy and thankfulness for that event, and confident hope that the conclusion of the Civil War was now attained, were expressed in no measured terms. Probably the regret of the University and clergy generally at the fall of Henry VI was deep and heartfelt. In him they had found a constant and generous patron; but during the ten succeeding years their experience of Edward IV, whose advent had been dreaded, completely won their regard and confidence; his vices, if gross, were not unpopular, and much could be condoned to one so unswerving in the persecution of heresy, so gracious in the patronage of learning. On the whole, I suppose we must admit that obsequiousness and flattery are the prevailing tone of these letters, greeting each king in turn with praise and congratulation only so far modified as the circumstances of each case required. Thus Henry VI's restoration is a miraculous restitution, an undoubted work of God. The letter to Edward IV in the same year is couched in similar language; but to suppress regret and eschew comparisons was of course obvious policy no less than mere politeness, and it must be borne in mind that the continuation of the royal favour was vitally necessary to the very existence of the University.

If, then, it is not without a slight sense of shame that we notice these features in the letters, we shall on the other hand welcome the reverse

side of the picture. For if, on the one hand the writers hardly escape the charge of insincerity, on the other we cannot withhold both surprise and admiration at the constancy and courage with which, on more than one occasion, we find the whole University standing shoulder to shoulder, to resist what they considered unjustifiable interference of the king and others, in the management of their academic elections and other private concerns. It is true that in some of the instances, of which several occur, the matter in question is, as we should regard it, of a trivial character; as, e. g. the refusal to readmit Morgan Philipp; the less energetic defence of their conduct in the banishment of an infamous woman (486); or, again, the several occasions on which the wishes of the king, the prince, and the Bishop of Lincoln, and their letters in favour of their nominees for the office of bedel, were disregarded; and it is possible that, though the office was in those days one of great importance and some dignity, and would provide comfortably for one of the king's gentlemen, the king may have smiled, not without approval, at the sturdy independence of the clerks in maintaining the purity of their elections and the sanctity of their oath. But the case was widely different when Henry VII demanded the surrender of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, a political offender 'lurking,' as was said, at Oxford, and when the royal summons failed to elicit a direct reply, but only fair words and 'lytyl or none effect off dede.' Indeed, the not obscure threats of the angry king plainly show that if a solution of the difficulty had not been discovered and a compromise effected by the Bishop of Lincoln, nothing short of absolute revocation of all privilege, and consequent corporate extinction, was apprehended (513–521). So, too, the very well-written defence of John Morton, Bishop of Ely (493–4), must have been felt to be a very hazardous exercise of eloquence; and that courage was not lacking so to address such a king as Richard III, certainly implies in the writers, in addition to a conviction of the justice of their plea, an advancing sense of confidence and strength.

I cannot conclude these remarks on the style of the letters without a few words on a very prominent, though not very important, note common to them all; I allude to the extraordinary profusion and variety of the abstract titles of honour in which not only popes, kings, and bishops are addressed, but even ordinary citizens of no rank whatever: of these last even a London grocer is styled 'reverencia tua,' a military man 'strenuitas tua,' and, of course, priests 'paternitates vestrae.'

It would be no uninteresting inquiry to trace the growth of this language of deference or servility, the use of which has remained with us to the present day. The earliest instance I find of anything in this kind is in the twelfth letter of Pliny to Trajan, where he uses the words 'bonitas tua.' But that, I think, is hapaxlegomenon. In the letters of Symmachus the use of these titles had become not uncommon; thus we find him addressing the emperor as 'mansuetudo tua,' 'perennitas tua,' 'aeternitas tua,' 'clementia,' 'sublimitas,' 'pietas,' &c. Yet even at that day (390 A.D.), considering the large number of his epistles and their length, we shall find, I think, that the instances of the use of these titles of honour are by no means numerous. It remained for a later age to develop the practice, probably confined, in the first instance, to correspondence with the emperors, and subsequently extended, at Constantinople, to the innumerable officials and creatures of the court; whose vanity was gratified and favour cultivated by an organized system of parasitic adulation unknown before in the western world. Closely connected with this practice is the style of the concluding sentences of the letters; for in these also the rank or position in life are distinguished with the most curious exactitude; so much so that not infrequently, where no title to the epistle exists, we are enabled to identify the person to whom it was written. The invariable practice (suppose, for instance, a request for help) was to express a fervent prayer that God would reward the donor, or expected benefactor, with a recompense commensurate with his generosity; for the University has nothing but a spiritual return to make, but she offers, like the widow, all she has, and will ever remember him in her prayers, &c. In the case of a soldier this will be expressed as a prayer that, 'after the warfare of this life ended, he may be granted a triumph in heaven' (65); or if his aid be invoked to quell a disturbance or preserve tranquillity in Oxford, it is the 'Prince of peace' whose blessing is implored. If a dignitary of the Church be the recipient, the guidance of his flock in his earthly charge, and the peace of the Church, are remembered along with supplication for his enjoyment of the beatific vision. For the citizen grocer, prayers shall not be lacking that his business may increase and prosper (223). From observing this peculiarity, I think it may be concluded that there existed in the year 1427 a society or guild of physicians; for in a letter asking for assistance to build the Theology School (28), commencing 'honorandi et in Christo carissimi,' the concluding words are 'ad solatium pauperum longaevet in prosperis

Medicus vitalis omnium.' In the *Memorials of the Craft of Surgery*, by Darcy Power, it is stated (pp. 53, 299) that no *separate* society of physicians is mentioned before Linacre's time; so great is the care, however, in discriminating rank and station of life in these letters, that I am inclined to think there may have been such a *separate* guild. Even superiority of rank and office in one bishop over others is carefully recognized; for the Bishop of Bath and Wells, being also Lord Chancellor, the prayer is, 'Deus pater paternitatem vestram reverendissimam inter sanctos antistites *praesidere* tribuat in excelsis,' while an ordinary bishop is held to be sufficiently provided for by 'paternitatem vestram diutine conservet in prosperis,' &c.

The epistle, then, thus carefully prepared and approved by Congregation, was entrusted to a faithful messenger, in whose fidelity implicit trust is alike expressed in the writers and invited in the recipient of the missive. And this was no unimportant precaution; for it will not escape the notice of even a cursory reader that in almost all the letters there is a 'hiatus valde deflendus'; for they are all conceived in the most general terms, the details of the business and all the circumstances of the difficulty are, unfortunately for us, left to be supplied by word of mouth of the messenger, who *vomere verbi* will unfold the matter at full length. Sometimes, indeed very frequently, the Chancellor himself in person conveyed the letter, but sometimes, and more often, it was committed to the care of a trusted messenger; and it is not without a strong curiosity that we imagine the interview, for it is precisely in such intimate relations that history is lacking and all is left to imagination. The progress, too, of the Chancellor on his journey, in which plainly both robbery and the surprise of his secrets were a danger to be apprehended, would be of a most entertaining description could we but gain a sight of him, riding with his attendants by cross-roads or no roads, carrying all their academical dress and ornament so as to appear before the King or the great Archbishop or Chancellor not without a dignity becoming the occasion. We have, however, one humorous letter from the Bishop of Lincoln (513), describing, but briefly, his misadventures in riding about his diocese discharging arrears of duty, in the course of which he finds himself without the needful academical dress, so that he cannot make his appearance, as he had hoped to do, at Oxford.

This introduction, already, I fear, too long, must now be brought

to a close; the purpose of it is not to give an account of all that is to be found in the pages of the book to which it is prefixed, but to give a sketch of those most salient points, as I conceive, which are peculiar to the epistles, and serve to illustrate the life and manners of the University in the fifteenth century. To comment upon other things, or to attempt a connected history, is of course both impossible and unnecessary; impossible in this work, for it would have required an introduction as long as the whole work itself; unnecessary because the history of the University, so far as facts and dates may be so considered, is, I think, sufficiently well known from other sources, and there is little new in that kind to be found, I believe, in these two volumes. I may observe also, in conclusion, that it is hoped the analyses prefixed to every letter will in no small degree be found, as they are designed to do, to render a longer introduction superfluous. As to the general history of England, in so far as it touches the events and preoccupations of University life, nothing can be, for the same reasons, attempted in this place. And indeed there is nothing, I think, of any considerable importance likely to result from a discursion into so wide a field, were it within the scope of the writer. Here and there a little point strikes the reader; for instance, the use of the word 'nex' in speaking of the death of the Duke of Gloucester—but we cannot infer from this that the writer believed that death to be due to violence; for the word in baser latinity is used as synonymous with 'mors.' Again, in the notes to Lingard (vol. iii. note B), is noticed an attempt to 'whitewash' the character of Richard III by purging him of the charge of murdering the princes. If the dates of his journey, in which Oxford was one halting-place, could be exactly determined, the argument for or against, so far, would be conclusive; but here again our MS. does not help us, his visit to Oxford being mentioned, indeed, but without date.

Here, then, I take leave of this MS., and hope the present reproduction of it may prove of some interest to the reader; to say that the labour of preparing it for the press has been great, will be easily understood. Neither in deciphering the original, in many parts extremely difficult to read, nor in transcribing, nor in any other way, has anything been deputed to another; so that the present editor is wholly responsible for the result. A few portions of the MS. are selected as specimens, some of the better, some of the worse hands. In this choice the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Magrath, kindly assisted me by his judgement, for which I thank him, as also for his general

interest in the progress of the work; an interest extended generally to historical subjects, and which would, I feel sure, have found expression in more literary results, had not his time been so fully, and more usefully, employed in the administrative labours of his busy life.

HENRY ANSTEY.

UPLANDS, OXFORD,
September 20, 1898.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

i. No. 62, page 77, line 9 (fol. 23 a) . .
ii. Page 192, line 1 (fol. 55 b) . . . .
iii. Page 207, line 3 (fol. 60 b) . . . .
iv. No. 153, page 208, line 27 (fol. 61 a).
v. No. 169, page 230, line 29 (fol. 67 a).
vi. Page 257, line 6 (fol. 76 a) . . . .
vii. No. 208, page 293, line 29 (fol. 91 a).
viii. No. 217, page 303, line 32 (fol. 94 b).

At end of Part I.

ix. Page 407, line 21 (fol. 125 a) . . .
x. No. 271, page 424, line 22 (fol. 129 b)
xi. No. 370, page 542, line 25 (fol. 159 b)
xii. No. 399, page 569, line 22 (fol. 165 b)
xiii. No. 449, page 604, line 14 (fol. 172 b)
xiv. No. 508, page 667, line 10 (fol. 185 b)

At end of Part II.

EPISTOLAE ACADEMICAE[1] Fol. 1 a.

OXON.

I.

Littera directa domino Cantuariensi pro promocione et provisione.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury. A deputation sent to wait upon him: thanks for promotion of their Chancellor: other bishops do not give effect to the 'provincial constitution' by promotion of graduates; his grace is earnestly requested to apply a remedy.

REVERENDISSIME in Christo pater et Domine, premissa nostra recommendacione humillima, cum omnimodis obediencia et honore debitis tanto patri. Inclinet se, quesumus, suis oratoribus perpetuis vestre paternitatis pietas, et gracie ianuam nostris nunciis apperiat cum visceribus compassivis. Recolimus gaudenter vestre gratissime affeccionis penes promocionem graduatorum, et regraciamur ex intimis quod execucionem vestre constitucionis provincialis non sub modio 1421.

[1] *Registrum Iohannis Farley* is written in late hand at left-hand corner of first folio of this MS., see fol. 114 b, where J. Farley has written his name in Greek characters, as also on folio 115 b and elsewhere.

Note in late hand on leaf facing first page of the MS. Reg. F.

Hunc librum ab Academia Oxoniensi olim surreptum vel abalienatum venerabilis vir Dominus Dr. Abbott, tunc Collegii Universitatis Magister et ecclesiae cathedralis Wyntoniensis Decanus, nunc autem Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis, Wyntoniae invenit, et, anno vicecancellariatus sui tertio, hoc est anno Domini 1605, in quadam Convocatione, universitati Oxoniensi restituit.

Another hand writes on the same leaf:

'Ab anno Domini 1422 usque ad annum Domini 1503—partim etiam ad annum Domini 1508 ut in folio penult.' This, however, seems to be not quite correct, for the first epistle in the MS. is dated July 7th, the second February 13th, the third July 6th, 1422, so that the date of the first must be in the year 1421.

latere voluistis, sed, ad ceterorum venerabilium patrum lucidum exemplum, supra candelabrum in aperto lucescere ponere decrevistis, in graciosa promocione domini nostri Cancellarii; humillime imprecando contentacionem felicem pregustate dulcedinis. Sed, dum hiis gaudiorum exhilaramur iniciis, nos circumvenire videntur[1] motiva meroris, ut, quod vestra immensa paternitas nobis erexit in titulum gaudiosum, ceteri, ut[2] credimus, honorabiles patres et prelati eiusdem execucionem non curant reponere in effectum. Ad cuius reformacionem et tanti vulneris medelam, quesumus ut nobis vestre manus paternales superveniant effectualiter adjutrices. Amantissime pater, ex spe firmissima quam habemus, vestre dominacioni graciose quatuor de nostris confratribus, scilicet magistrum Petrum Partrick sacre pagine professorem, T. Colas nostrum procuratorem ex officio, Ricardum Praty scolarem in theologia et Robertum Beomond magistros in artibus duximus destinandos, quibus dignemini fidem indubiam adhibere, et vestram dominacionem in suo apice pastorali conservet summus Pastor felicissime, ad ecclesie et cleri incrementum cum omnimodis prosperis et honore. *Scripta in domo nostre congregacionis septimo die mensis Iulii.* Vestre paternitatis reverendissime humillimi oratores et perpetui Cancellarius regentes et non-regentes vestre Universitatis Oxoniensis.

2.

Letter to the Bishop of London[3].

To the Bishop of London: begging him to dispense with residence on his cure in the case of Master Simon Alcok, rector of Westyllebury, in order that he may be able to remain at Oxford, and, by his example and teaching, advance the study of theology.

1421. Reverendo in Christo patri et Domino Johanni Dei gracia Londoniensi episcopo, domino suo singulari et precipuo protectori[4].

Honoracionis precipue virentem fervorem a devoti cordis germinantem radicibus, et sub vestre dominantis proteccionis aura faventi vestre exaltacionis commoda semper prospere vegetari. O venerande pastor, ecclesie sidus, cleri cedrus et presulum gemma preradians;

[1] *indies* erased after *videntur*, MS. [2] *ut* inserted over the line, ib.

[3] Where there is no title in the MS., it will be understood that the title given in English has been supplied by the editor in all cases.

[4] This address is at the end of the letter in the MS. To avoid repetition, it may be here observed that no uniform method is used in the MS. Sometimes the address is at the beginning, other times at the end of the letter; it seems to be more convenient to arrange all the letters in the same order, and this has been done.

limpide racionis vivax consilium vestre discrete mentis in aula sentenciat quod honoris paterni tunc flos decenter pululat et digne laudis fragrancia redolescit in populo, quociens humilium filiorum iusto precamini sue exaudicionis ianuas benigne reserat clemens pater. Filius itaque naturalis legis stateram examine iusto ponderat, qui, materne deprecacionis pulsatus instanciis, a sue recordacionis non abradit registro ubera predulcia que sugebat; quorum pretextam seriem dum Universitas nostra mature deliberacionis convertit ad aciem, nostre peticionis audacitas dupplicis confidencie alas iam induit, ut vestre secure convolet clemencie pastorali. Quoniam spe inconcussa tenemus quod tam in vobis gratuite filiacionis nobilitas, per[1] . . . . . rivos alme Universitatis nostre potata de pectore, materne precis saciabit affectum, quam eciam vestre paterne dignitatis sublimitas pontificalis eminencie tronizata in arce, nostri precaminis filialis graciose dilabetur ad vallem, et precipue in hiis que vestre episcopalis celsitudinis onus alleviant, vobis commissi gregis salutem amplificant, et nostri lumen honoris pariunt nutriunt et decorant. Quocirca pro magistro Simone Alcok rectore ecclesie parochialis de Westyllebury vestre diocesis, quem in artibus magistralis decoris venustat habilitas, theologicique studii collaudat infancia, nostre humilitatis preces, sinceri cordis accensas fervoribus, vestre veneracionis ad conspectum perducimus, attencius supplicando quatenus dictum magistrum, in orto studii virentem palmitem, vestre ordinarie vocacionis securis nondum ad residendum in beneficio suo nostri cetus prescindat a vite; quin pocius ipsum vestrarum literarum pro certis annis quesumus fulcite tutela, ut ipse in vitali ligno theologice facultatis decenter iam ramificans perampliis frondeat, frondescens germinet, germinansque floreat, et florescens fructificet in catholice doctrine semine, quod posterius in animarum campis spargere poterit habundanter. Huius revera nostre peticionis vultum ad graciosi consensus amplexum eo cicius, ut speramus, vestri predigni pontificatus invitabit prudencia, quo has nostre supplicacionis fervide vobis immolamus primicias pro viro qui ingenio extat non chaos sed stella, moribus non urtica sed rosa, in studio non fucus sed apis[2] fructifera, et in sue conversacionis exemplo non lignum aridum sed oliva; ymmo, si eius ad laudem nostre commendacionis veridice non immerito laxantur habene, inficte assercionis testari potest veritas quod est hic vite speculum, honestatis lucerna et vere virtutis balsamum, quod, divine ducatu gracie, intra latas vestre diocesis fimbrias doctrinalis odoris dulcedinem largiter exalabit. Et utinam in agro dominico vestre cure multi tales nascerentur agricole, qui tribulos

[1] A word obliterated, MS. [2] *apes* ib.

a segete, zizannia a tritico, et virtutis granum a viciorum palea extirpare noscerent velut iste, qui seduli sudore studii inter nos sane doctrine metit manipulos, quibus oves Christiani ovilis in futuro disponit pascere; si sibi a vestre sede potestatis emanet auctoritas ad sancte predicacionis imbres distillandum in pascua gregis Christi. Qui,
Fol. 1 b. futurorum bonorum Pontifex, et Princeps regum terre, ad nostre consolacionis solacium, dies vestros adaugeat adauctosque felicitet in culmine prelacie. *Scriptum in domo nostre congregacionis sub sigillo nostro communi tercio decimo die mensis Februarii.* Vestri humiles et perpetui oratores Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis regencium in eadem.

3.

Testimonial Letter for Master Robert Pyke.

1422. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in Domino sempiternam. Cum non deceat honeste conversacionis lucernam occultari sub modio, sed pocius hiis, qui in domo Domini sunt, in aperto lucescere, ut sit fidelibus in exemplum; iccirco laudabilem ipsorum vitam, qui inter nos disciplinis scolasticis insistebant diucius, ad communem hominum noticiam eo fervenciori studio pervenire cupimus, quo nonnullos credimus ea occasione ad maioris honestatis graciam invitari. Quia ergo venerabilis vir Robertus Pyke, in artibus magister, inter nos in moribus et sciencia sic profecit, quod, tam laudabiliter quam honeste inter socios conversando, ceteris se prebuit studii et virtutis exemplum, ne ex aliqua calumpniancium invidia tante honestatis splendor mendaciorum nebulis obfuscetur, ad commendacionem dicti magistri pleniorem, eidem super premissis has litteras testimoniales sigillo communi nostre Universitatis fecimus consignari. *Datum in domo nostre congregacionis sexto die mensis Iulii anno millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo secundo.*

4.

Testimonial Letter for Master William Parker, *alias* Corps.

1422. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. De summo celo egressus Unigenitus Dei Filius ad ima mundi descendens veritati testimonium perhibuit, nobis relinquens exemplum testimonium

veritati consimiliter perhibere. Hinc est quod nos super vita et conversacione honesta dilecti fratris nostri magistri Willelmi Parker, *alias* Corps, in artibus magistri certiorare volentes, per has nostras litteras *attestamur* quod idem magister in dicta Universitate, ceteris se prebens virtutis exemplum, laudabiliter studuit et profecit; et eum nullo novimus crimine innodatum; sed, morum gravitate prefulgens matura, Dei amorem et hominum immaculati nominis titulo vendicavit. Unde, ne calumpniancium invidia aut hora insidiancium maliciose captata eius status alicui posset in dubium revocari, eidem magistro super statu suo laudabili, ut omnibus plenius innotescat, has litteras testimoniales sigillo communi Universitatis nostre predicte fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis decimo die mensis Marcii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo secundo.*

5.

To the Chancellor of the University.

To Master John Castel their Chancellor: whereas a certain venerable person has promised to give money for building a school of theology in Oxford, the Chancellor is earnestly requested to endeavour to obtain payment thereof.

EXIMIE discrecionis viro, Magistro Iohanni Castel sacre pagine 1423.
professori ac Universitatis Oxoniensis matris nostre Cancellario, vestri confratres Commissarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, votorum internis desideriis filiales reverencias et honores. Prehonorabilis domine et magister, cum pro matris nostre alme Universitatis profectu et honore vestra maturitas circumspecta longeva affeccione dinoscatur insudasse, ad sperandum firmius invitamur honorem eiusdem matris nostre tam venerabilis patris favente labore amplius fecundari; nostre igitur congregacionis cetus unanimis totis viribus vestram paternitatem supplicat instancius, quod, cum quidam venerabilis pro edificio scolarum matris nostre aurum certum ex pietatis spiritu compromisit, pro eiusdem auri solucione gratuita viis honestis hac vice laborares [1], ut sic edificium Dei inceptum, ad sue laudis excel- Fol. 2 a.
lens preconium ac matris nostre amplianda ubera, futuris successoribus doctrine pabulum stabilito fundamine habundanter apponat. *Scriptum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis vicesimo die mensis Aprilis.*

[1] *laborare* MS.

6.

Testimonial letter for Master John ffossars.

1423. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie[1] cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in Eo qui est omnium vera salus. Cum eterni Patris Filio, quem Beate Marie Virginis viscera portaverunt, credimus complacere quociens veritati testimonium perhibemus. Hinc est quod nos super mora et graduacione in dicta nostra Universitate venerabilis viri domini Johannis ffossars, in decretis bacallarii, omnes quorum interest certiorare volentes, per has nostras litteras attestamur, quod idem dominus Johannes graduatus extitit inter nos in iure canonico secundum consuetudines laudabiles dicte Universitatis. Ut[2] [igitur] super prefata graduacione dicti domini Johannis omnibus plenius innotescat, has litteras nostras testimoniales sigillo communi nostre Universitatis predicte fecimus consignari. *Datum in domo nostre congregacionis Oxonie octavo die mensis Maii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo tercio.*

Nota quod Universitas non consuevit vocare bacallarios Magistros[3].

7.

Testimonial letter for Master Richard ffranke.

1423. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie[1] cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in Eo qui est omnium vera salus. Egressus summo de celo Unigenitus Dei filius miserabilem humanitatis ad vallem descendens veritati testimonium perhibuit, nobis relinquens exemplum testimonium veritati consimiliter perhibere. Hinc est quod nos super vita moribus et conversacione honesta dilecti nobis in Christo magistri Ricardi ffranke, sacre pagine professoris, Eboracensis diocesis, confratris nostri, omnes quorum interest certiorare volentes, per has litteras attestamur, quod idem magister, dum inter nos steterat, facultati theologie

[1] The words *Oxonie* and *Oxoniensis* are used indiscriminately in the MS.
[2] *Igitur* omitted in MS. [3] This note is in a different and smaller hand, and was plainly inserted afterwards, I suspect at the time of the great dispute and trouble occasioned by the attempt made by the Bachelors to have the title of Masters. *Vide infra*, epist. 107.

dans operam efficacem in eadem laudabiliter studuit et profecit, ac iuxta statuta nostreque Universitatis consuetudines pacifice quiete et honeste inter nos fuerat conversatus; adeo quod, quamdiu cetum nostrum sua presencia decoraverat, eum nullo novimus crimine innodatum, sed morum gravitate prefulgens matura Dei amorem et hominum immaculati nominis titulo vendicavit. Unde, ne calumpniancium invidia aut ora[1] insidiancium maliciose captata tante honestatis splendor possit alicui in dubium revocari, eidem magistro, et super statu suo laudabili, ut omnibus plenius innotescat, has litteras testimoniales sigillo nostre Universitatis communi fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis vicesimo secundo die mensis Junii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo tercio.*

8.

To the Earl of Warwick. Fol. 2 b.

Whereas certain rebellious scholars made an attack upon the earl's family and the proctor of the University, the Chancellor is doing his utmost to punish them as they deserve. Thanks for gracious reply to deputation.

NOBILISSIMO et prepotenti domino, comiti de Warwyke, suo singulari domino et gracioso protectori. 1423.

Nobilissime et magnifice domine, premissa nostra recommendacione humillima cum omnimodis reverencia et honore. Dignetur scire vestra nobilitas graciosa, quod ad castigacionem nostrorum rebellium, qui in vestram familiam et nostrum procuratorem insurrexerunt enormiter et iniuste, dominus Cancellarius omnimodam diligenciam et[2] rigorem iuridicum exhibet; et nos nostram assistenciam concilium ac potenciam ex totis nostris precordiis prebemus et prebebimus; nec aliud in hac causa concipiat vestra dominacio; quia, teste Altissimo, maliciam huius facti non minus contra nos in Universitatis nostre scandalum, quam contra vestram familiam equo pondere computamus. Vere igitur dignum et iustum et equum atque salutare ut condigna subeant penarum stipendia, qui tanti facinoris damnosa scandala in clero erigere minime formidabant. Super singulis nempe articulis materiam concernentibus plenam informacionem magistro Johanni Bedminstyr nostro procuratori tradidimus in credencia, per quem vestre dominacionis

[1] The *h* in *hora* carefully erased, MS.

[2] *rigorem et iuridicum* ib.

responsum recepimus graciosum; ob quam quidem[1] tante nobilitatis graciam reputamus nos vestre serenitati perpetuo obligatos, et promittimus nos facturos quicquid possumus in hac parte. Et vestre magnifice milicie nobilitatem prepotentem conservet et adaugeat multiplicis gracie incrementis summus judex omnium, ad sui honorem et vestri premii apicem et ad vindictam malorum laudemque bonorum. Amen. *Scriptum in domo nostre congregacionis decimo septimo die mensis Decembris.* Vestre magnifice dominacionis humiles oratores servitoresque perpetui Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum Universitatis Oxoniensis.

9.

To the Pope.

In behalf of Master Elyas Vare, who is bound by his oath to reside in Oxford, as necessary regent, but is absent on account of urgent business, that he may be absolved from the obligation of that oath.

1423. Beatissime pater devotissima filiali recommendacione[2] premissa cum humillima obediencia [et][3] subieccione ad oscula pedum beatorum. Sanctissime pater, ubilibet orbe terrarum celebris fama preconizat, quod licet summe vestre clemencie circumspecta prudencia similiter se prebeat graciosam, illos tamen libencius, ad exaudicionis[4] graciam benigno prosequens favore liberius premovet et admittit, quos matura decorat profunditas[5] scripturarum, saneque conversacionis insignia reddunt merito commendandos; unde, quia confrater noster Elyas Vare[6] sancti[7] ordinis Minorum, sacre theologie professor, vir vite laudabilis conversacionisque honeste, regens necessarius in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi existit, et sue regencie actibus obligatur virtute prestiti iuramenti, dignetur igitur vestra clemencia paternalis nostrarum precum mediacione se exorabilem exhibere; et rutila suorum meritorum commendacione, in sua absencia ad presens notabiliter excusabili, dignis favoribus habere specialiter recommissum. Et vestre unice et indubitate[8] sedis[9] apostolice apicem gloriosum, ad sacrosancte ecclesie regimen et munimen, felicissime conservet in prosperis summus Pastor ovium, cuius vicem geritis, Jesus Christus. *Scriptum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis undecimo die mensis Februarii.*

[1] *quid* MS. [2] *recommendissima* corrected in MS. [3] *et* omitted in MS. [4] *exaudiciones* MS. [5] *funditas* ib. [6] or *Vore* ib. [7] *sancte* ib. [8] *indubiente* apparently, ib. [9] *sedes* ib.

10.

To the Bishop of Exeter.

Soliciting the promotion of Master William Brounynge.

REVERENDO in Christo patri et domino, domino Edmundo, Dei gracia Exoniensi episcopo confratri nostro carissimo. 1423.

Reverende in Christo pater et domine, post devotum nostre commendacionis obsequium. Tenere vos credimus ex iusticie debito quod hii debeant in percipiendis premiorum manipulis ceteros anteire, qui sciencie et virtutis rutila preeminent honestate. Ea propter paternitati vestre, quam fraternali et sincera dileccione prosequimur, carissimum confratrem nostrum, magistrum Willelmum Brounynge, vestre diocesis, in decretis doctorem, virum itaque laudabilis vite et conversacionis honeste aliisque virtutibus multipharie insignitum, necnon in spiritualibus et temporalibus circumspectum, cuius periciam et discrecionem per operis exercicium indies experimur, specialius quo possumus commendantes, vos attencius deprecamur, quatenus eidem confratri nostro thesaurum vestri favoris et gracie effundatis ad graciosum sui status incrementum; ut eo plenius eidem paternitati vestre ad graciarum teneamur acciones, quo nostrum sincerius confratrem de vestri pectoris armariolo noverimus exaltatum; ex dicto recensentes philosophico '*hoc pertinere ad tocius integritatem quod sui parti impenditur ad profectum.*' Vestram paternitatem reverendam diu et feliciter conservet in prosperis et dirigat in agendis Trinitas increata, noxia removens universa. *Scriptum in domo nostre congregacionis octavo die mensis Aprilis.* Vestri confratres et oratores Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

11.

To the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Fol. 3 a.

Begging for assistance in building the new theological school, and commending their deputation in this behalf.

REVERENDO in Christo patri et domino Nicholao, Dei gracia Wellensi et Bathoniensi episcopo ac suo domino gracioso. 1423.

Reverende in Christo pater et domine, premissa recommendacione humillima cum sinceris vestre salutis affectibus. Concepimus ex venerabilium personarum relatibus quomodo vestra pietas paternalis

in pauperes digne respicit, et plura pietatis opera caritatis intuitu amplexatur. Nos vero sub penuria laborantes in quodam scolarum edificio iam incepto ad vestras dignas manus respicimus adiutrices; et, pro pleniore vestre dominacionis informacione in hac causa, dignemini magistro Thome Colas, presencium latori, viro discreto et fideli nostroque confratri, fidem indubiam adhibere, ac ipsum in nostris negociis atque suis, que penes vestram dominacionem graciosam in se assumpsit humiliter et votive suis laboribus exponenda, clementer acceptare et pie exaudire. Et graciam vobis pro gracia Altissimus ipse reddat, dirigatque in prosperis, ac felicissimis adaugeat future glorie incrementis. *Scriptum in domo nostre congregacionis duodecimo die mensis Aprilis.* Vestre dominacionis paternalis humiles oratores et votivi Cancellarius cetusque unanimis regencium Universitatis Oxon.

12.

Testimonial letter for Master W. Certeyn.

1424. Anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo quarto, vicesimo quinto die mensis Iunii sigillata fuit una littera testimonialis magistro Willmo. Certeyn sub forma secunde littere testimonialis scripta superius in secunda parte primi folii istius registri, viz. Magistro W. Parker.

13.

Testimonial letter for Master John Brente.

1424. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum in eadem salutem in Domino Jesu Christo. De summo celo egressus Unigenitus Dei filius ad ima mundi descendens veritati testimonium perhibuit, nobis relinquens exemplum testimonium veritati consimiliter perhibere. Hinc est quod nos, super vita et conversacione honesta dilecti confratris nostri magistri Johannis Brente, in artibus magistri, certiorare volentes, per has nostras litteras attestamur quod idem magister in dicta universitate regenciam suam fine votivo concludens laudabiliter studuit et perfecit, et eum nullo[1] novimus[2] crimine innodatum; sed[3] morum gravitate prefulgens matura, Dei amorem et hominum immaculati nominis titulo vendicavit. Unde, ne calumpniancium invidia aut hora insidiancium maliciose captata eius

[1] Erasure before *novimus*. [2] *nominis* MS. [3] Erasure after *sed*.

status alicui possit in dubium revocari, eidem magistro super statu suo laudabili, ut omnibus plenius innotescat, has litteras testimoniales communi sigillo nostre universitatis predicte fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie, in nostre congregacionis domo quinto die mensis Julii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo quarto.*

14.

Testimonial letter for Master John Lord.

ANNO Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo quarto, quinto die Julii sigillata fuit littera testimonialis magistro Johanni Lord sub forma littere immediate precedentis. 1424.

15.

Littera directa domino Cantuariensi pro excusacione maledictorum de Universitate. Fol. 3 b.

We beg that your grace will wait for more evidence and not believe the partial accounts you have hitherto received of the University.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri et domino, Henrico Dei gracia Cantuariensi archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati et apostolice sedis legato ac suo singularissimo protectori. 1424.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, premissa recommendacione nostra humillima cum omnimodis reverencia et obediencia debitis tanto patri. Dignetur vestra paternitas graciosa, in qua singulariter nos speramus, pie nobis exaudicionis annuere intervallum, et corde, ut credimus, amplexari gravamina que sentimus; et intendimus Deo duce per nostrum Cancellarium et consilium ab Universitate deputatum inquirere suscitate litis fomitem, et oblatrantis discidii sementina in pacis gremium resarcire. Hec subito non feruntur nec quibuscunque relatibus nisa condescendunt[1]; nam et inquit precipuus pugil ecclesie Augustinus, '*multi multa referunt sed non omnia digna fide*': exoramus igitur vestram clemenciam paternalem, humillime pro respectu[1], aciem[1] opportune continuacionis in hac vice usque ad nostros nuncios vobis destinandos, legitimis causis subsistentibus, ob honorem Dei et vestre dominacionis reverenciam et pleniorem veritatis informacionem capiscendam. Pater prestantissime, speramus in vestra domi-

[1] There is no difficulty here in deciphering the MS., the words are perfectly plain; the word 'aciem' may perhaps be doubtful.

nacione graciosa, nec ei dignum dabimus obicem, quem timemus, quem amamus, et quem cupimus protectorem. Conservet ideo nobis vestram dominacionem exorabilem Omnipotens felicissime cum graciosis incrementis in prosperis et honore. *Scriptum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis duodecimo die mensis Decembris.* Vestre reverendissime paternitatis obedientes filii et oratores humillimi Cancellarius et cetus unanimis regencium Universitatis Oxoniensis.

16.

To the King's Council.

Praying that they, having the sword committed to them for that purpose, will at once take steps to preserve peace in the University; and commending their deputation, the Chancellor thereof.

1424. Clarissimis prudentissimisque concilii regii dominis, reipublice ac pauperis sui cleri dignissimis protectoribus.

Clarissimis consilii regii dominis suus clerus Oxoniensis, ad intima subieccionis obsequia humillimus et devotus, reverencias omnimodas et honores, ac celebre regni regimen sub tam felici prudencia in omnibus pacifice prosperari.

Magni consilii angelus pacem reddens terrigenis gladium commisit principibus, quo in nocentes subditos pax tueretur firmior, iusto metu improbos cohercente. Nam tanquam racioni consonum spectabilis patrum antiquitas suis posteris contradidit, ut rebellium contumacias ferri censura feriat, quos ad vivendi regulam lenitas non emollit. Attendat vestra solers sublimitas, prudenti iuris acie, ex qua facili iuventutis lignicula accenduntur, cuius fumo exalante formidamus infamia denigrari [1], et, nisi vigili cura obstaremus principiis, in eventu, sepissime crescente malicia et iusticia tepescente, scintilla exurgeret in incendium, et gutta grandesceret temere in torrentem. Ad quem ergo rectius ibimus pro succursu et pro tuicione quietis nobis necessarie, iam rege nostro iuvenilis sue nobilitatis preludia naturali presagio amplexante, quam ad consilii sui apicem, ex quo, inconcussis [2] nobis libertatibus prerogative regie, sicut per reges actenus consuevimus communiri? Tanti igitur consilii prudenciam [3] famosissime policie laudibus adornatam [4] humillimis [5] pulsamus precibus in nomine quietis clipeum manus porrigere protectricem, ut expositis causis et nostri meroris motivis per nostrum Cancellarium cum aliis sibi assistentibus

[1] *denigrare* MS. [2] *in conssis* (without any sign of abbreviation) ib.
[3] *prudencium* ib. [4] *adornatum* ib. [5] *humillimus* ib.

vice nostra, dignemini[1] intuitu caritatis contra debacantium turbines, ne insolencia effrenis nimium invalescat, nos pio munimine consolari. Et Deus, auctor pacis et amator, adaugeat[2] felicissime commissum vobis regimen regni atque cleri. Vestri subditi humillimi oratoresque perpetui Cancellarius et[3] congregacio regencium Oxonie.

17.

Littera directa domino Cantuariensi de non trahendo causas ad extra. Fol. 4 a.

The privileges of the University were granted that peace, so necessary to students, might not be disturbed. If suits terminable in the University are allowed to be taken elsewhere, our statutes are violated. Our Chancellor and others with him will give all necessary information on the point now in question.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, domino Henrico Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati, et apostolice sedis legato, ac suo singularissimo protectori. 1424.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et singularissime nobis domine, premissa recommendacione nostra humillima, cum sincere subieccionis reverencia obedientiali debita tanto patri. Vestre paternitati dilectissime scribere curavimus ex precordiis, cui in omnibus, ut tenemur, honorem deferrimus et amorem. Pater prestantissime, noverit vestra solidissima discrecio quod pre omnibus quies studio est optabilis, et pax prehonorabilis cunctis bonis; ad cuius efficaciam propensius consequendam conceduntur nobis privilegia, conduntur statuta, et consuetudines concinunt diucius approbate, de non trahendo causas ad extra, que sunt ad infra terminabiles; nisi primitus observatis remediis statutorum et ex inde ulterius iuris beneficium nullatenus denegatur. Facile ergo mutare non convenit precipicii per abruptum quod a longevis temporibus pacifice perpenditur confirmatum. Solum pacem cupimus et liberum studii exercicium, ac vestram dominacionem paternalem nobis piissimam protectricem. Et nostro Cancellario et aliis secum vices nostras gerentibus pro informacione pleniori dignetur vestra paternitas graciosa credenciam indubiam adhibere: cuius dignissimum apicem conservet dignus Pastor felicissime cum prosperis incrementis, cum omni gracia et honore. Vestre reverendissime paternitatis humiles subditi oratoresque perpetui Cancellarius et congregacio regencium Universitatis Oxoniensis.

[1] *sibi* repeated before *dignemini*, MS. [2] *adauget* ib. [3] *et* omitted in MS.

18.

To the Bishop of Winchester.

To the same effect as the preceding letter.

1424. Reverendissimo in Christo episcopo Wyntoniensi, &c.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, nobis singularissimeque protector, premissa nostra recommendacione humillima cum omnimodis reverencia et honore. Confidimus sub proteccione vestre dominacionis nobilissime pacifice nostris gaudere privilegiis et statutis, sicut actenus consuevimus ab antiquis; ac eis rependere vices resistendi qui sibi nequiter palliant perizomata oppugnandi. Ex preteritis nempe vestre dominacionis beneficiis spes magna nobis redditur de futuris; rogamus ea que ad pacem sunt, ne insidie nos preocupent[1] emulorum, et ne litigiis evocemur forinsecus per eos[2] qui novitates querunt querelarum, et dispendiosas lites fovent. Nobis vero congruum et sufficiens reputamus veterum servare decreta, quia philosophicus sermo dictat quod '*novitas plura parit pericula ubi antiquitas non peccavit.*' Respiciat igitur, si dignemini, sub iuvene principe, vestra maturitas nobilissima ad studii nostri quietem caritatis intuitu, sicut speravimus et speramus. Et, ut nihil de contingentibus omittamus, nostrum Cancellarium et alios vice Universitatis deputatos plenam credenciam commisimus vestre dominacioni nobilissime lucidius exponendam; vestreque nobilitatis celsitudinem paternalem dirigat Altissimus felicissime ad sui laudem in prosperis et honore, &c.

19.

To the executors of John Whytynton.

Among other your charity for the soul of the deceased, we venture to ask that you will bestow a share upon us for the new school of theology. We send to you our Chancellor, who will declare to you how great is our poverty.

1424. Honorabilibus viris et discretis, executoribus Johannis Whytynton.

Honorabiles domini, premissa recommendacione humillima in visceribus Salvatoris. Fama laudiflua nobis innotuit de eximiis misericordie operibus pro anima bone memorie Johannis Whytynton, per vestram fidelem execucionem indefesse ministratis; unde et nos in

[1] *preocupant* MS. [2] *eo* ib.

vestra clemencia confidentes sincerius[1] audemus pulsare vestras reverencias et nostram necessitatem vestris piis animis exponere, subsidium et succursum vestre elimosyne ad quoddam magne pietatis opus devocius exorando. Et, ut nostre pie paupertatis vota vestris discrecionibus apercius elucescant, dominum nostrum Cancellarium vobis mittimus vice nostra, cui dignemini credenciam indubiam adhibere; et vobis pro meritis graciam reddat pro gracia piissimus Jesus Christus, qui pro temporalibus dat eterna.

20.

Hec littera missa fuit convocacioni cleri anno domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo quinto, existentibus tunc Cancellario Universitatis Oxonie magistro J. Castell et procuratoribus magistro J. Shirebourn et Willelmo Collyng. Fol. 4 b.

The University abhors and condemns the new and monstrous heretical doctrine (of W. Russell) that personal tithe needs not to be paid to parochial clergy.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Henrico Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati et apostolice sedis legato ceterisque venerabilibus patribus et prelatis Cantuariensis provincie, Universitas studii generalis Oxonie reverencias et honores devotos et debitos tam venerando cetui prelatorum, ac ceteris quibuscunque fidelibus salutem in amplexibus Salvatoris; et ad defensionem percelebrem catholice fidei firmiter et feliciter consistere, ac errores et hereses salubriter expugnare. Pristinorum temporum vicissitudines exempla varia et gesta tradiderunt fidelibus intuenda, quomodo ab exordio nascentis ecclesie, quam celestis Agricola Christus Jesus Dei Filius suique successores apostoli in sacro suo sanguine plantaverunt, continue per varias mundi provincias varii pulularunt heretici, qui sub specie pietatis et veritatis pretextu suis perversis dogmatibus populos alliciebant ignaros; et spiritu presumpcionis inflati matrem suam ecclesiam Christi sponsam suffodere, et ut perversa viperarum genimina corrodere[2] satagebant. Quorum calliditati et perversitati pestifere Spiritus sancti clemens provisio obviare benigne disposuit, dum patres et pastores ecclesie velut firmissimas columpnas erexit, doctoresque varios voluit florere vicissim; et exinde sacra concilia 1425.

[1] *sencerius* MS. [2] An allusion to the belief that the young of the viper gnaw their way into the world through the mother's belly.

elaborata decreta auctoritate sacrosancte matris ecclesie posteris firmabantur fidelibus, ut iam non figura sed veritas, non nunc opinio sed autoritas publice traduntur servande sub pena contemptus. Sed quia '*in multis novitas parit pericula, in quibus antiquitas non peccavit,*' illud esse censemus inconcusse tenendum quod ab antiquis patribus constat clarissime prefinitum. Verum quia nuper nobis innotuit cuiusdam novelli insana doctrina contra decimas personales, cuius miramur audaciam et dolemus insipienciam, sed eius pertinaciam et ecclesie contemptum sustinere veremur, et ne nostra taciturnitas seu negligencia tacito consensui ascribatur, in ipsa materia scribere curavimus quod concordes sentimus, et in evidens testimonium nostro sigillo communiri decrevimus, ad veritatis delucidacionem et obsequium ecclesie ut tenemur. Dicimus et firmiter concipimus quod decime personales, tam ex precepto iuris divini quam sanctorum patrum tradicionibus, sub autoritate ecclesie cum concordi iuris iudicio debentur ecclesiis et earum ministris curam animarum habentibus et sacramenta ministrantibus ex autoritate ecclesie. Magna namque est sacrosancte ecclesie autoritas, extra quam fides plane perpendit nullam posse pervenire salutem fidelibus. Ne illic ergo resideat spiritus pestilens aut opinio corrumpens, ubi locus queritur fidei ortodoxe, verba per adversarium premisse nostre sententie predicata, que eciam sub avaricie subtili fuco deprehendimus palliata, reprobamus, et tanquam erronea atque heretica declaramus, quorum demens tenor cum reprobo sensu sic sequitur, catholica damnacione merito fulminandus. '*Decime personales non cadunt sub precepto divino, saltem ut solvantur parochiali curato; quare licet vestrum unicuique, nisi consuetudo in contrarium fuerit, in pios usus pauperum eas dispensare*': et iterum, '*personales decime sub divino non cadunt precepto neque iure debentur ubi solucionis non est consuetudo.*' Quiscunque hanc sentenciam tenuerit et pertinaciter defenderit apud reputacionem nostram hereticus est censendus; et quia a sana doctrina ecclesie est divisus, a corpore eiusdem ecclesie velut membrum putridum est merito prescindendus. O honorabiles fratres et domini, O Universitates catholice, et quique fideles, scrutamini scripturas, canones inspicite, ac morum naturales concipite raciones. Quam proditorium est tributum negare Altissimo, quam inhumanum a laborantibus subtrahere debita, quamque scismatis exemplum auctoritati ecclesie publice pertinaciter resistere ac etiam iusticie omniumque precepta canonum, res alienas invadere! Nimis cruenta atque sacrilega est hec avaricia, que antiquissimi iuris decimale debitum solum consuetudini ascribit et in dubium revocat, ut laborancium victum iniuste exhauriat. Quid ministris ecclesie ad eorum honestam sustentacionem firmum persisteret, si decime possent

ad libitum conferri et jus decimandi ex debito non esset. O utinam aut resipiscant et ad ecclesie gremium redeant, qui tanto facinori favere conantur; aut asperrimis censuris, ne simplices inficiant, mordaciter feriantur. Sic unanimes in vera doctrina ecclesie permaneamus, ut ad Eum tendere valeamus de quo canit propheta, '*Querite Dominum et confirmamini, querite faciem Ejus semper*,' sic letetur cor querencium Dominum hic in via, quatinus ipsum querentibus dignetur esse merces in patria. Amen.

21.

To the Pope. Fol. 5 a.

Master Norton is going to visit Rome. The University, his mother, after the example of the mother of Zebedee's children, humbly commends her son to his holiness.

Missa fuerat hec littera in commendacionem magistri Johannis Norton[1]. 1425.

Sanctissimo in Christo patri ac domino, Domino Martino, divina providencia sacrosancte Romane ac universalis ecclesie summo pontifici.

Sanctissime pater, humillima recommendacione premissa cum devotissimis terre osculis ante pedes: Alma mater ecclesia jocunde laudis resonare canticum, necnon ad gracias eterno Patri tenetur assurgere, modernis attendens temporibus gregem dominicum sub tuto providissimi pastoris regimine confoveri: cujus eciam rei gracia, et si cuncte per orbem diffuse gentes habeant exultandi materiam, Universitas tamen Oxoniensis devotissima proles vestra majori causatur gaudiorum alacritate respergi; in quam sereniores vestre caritatis radios emisistis. Quod nedum permagne probitatis viros honorabilis vestre legacionis functos officio in nostram venit noticiam, ymo id ipsum experiencia rerum magistra cotidie manifestat. Ad preclare namque fame viros, quos materna Universitatis predicte lactaverint ubera, sue paternitatis extendit oculos apostolica crebrius celsitudo, egenos efficiens divites, filios creans in patres, et subditos preficiens in pastores. Non immerito igitur totis conatur filia viribus in patris complacenciam filios parere virtuosos enutrireque sic partos, ac enutritos pabulo sciencie salutaris foras emittere, ut per laudabilia ipsorum gesta et exigenciam meritorum alumpne sue titulum acquirant nominis gloriosi; sicut et ipsa viceversim pro filiis benemeritis, in omnibus illorum concernentibus honorem, semper parata consistit eciam non pulsata. In cujus signum, beatissime pater, pro filio karissimo nostro

[1] The whole of the following epistle is crossed out, but otherwise uninjured, in the MS.

Johanne Nortun, presencium portitorem apostolica visitante limina, preces nunc porrigere matris inclusa visceribus hortatur affeccio ab antiquis parentibus exemplata. Matrem namque filiorum Zebedei pro suis filiis intervenisse apud Dominum evangelista commemorat. Ejus igitur matris exemplo vestra se exponit Universitas pro filio supradicto. Hic est nempe verus ejus filius, cujus infanciam tenerem suavis doctrine pavit dulcedine, deindeque solidioris substancie disciplina in virum perfectum suis educavit laribus; donec tam legum doctrina quam experiencia rerum excellenter insignitus in sacris canonibus cathedram meruit ascendere doctoralem. Hunc postremo, post regenciam honorifice completam, disertissimi advocati facundia in curia Cantuariensi 'de arcubus' quatuor annis famosissimum reddidit et expertum. Siquidem plenitudo virtutis ejus et sciencie magnitudo tot apud eos eminent argumentis, tot subnixe suffragiis tantisque digne favoribus; et quod in multos superne largitatis munificencia distribuit hoc in ipsum majoris affluenciae gracia cumulavit. Et licet plura nobis occurrant, que in dicte persone laudem veraciter dici possent, hec tamen pauca succincte narracionis stilo descripsimus, ne matris taciturnitate velata ardens lucerna filii sub modio delitescat. His igitur digna consideracione pensatis, ea qua possumus devocione supplicando rogamus, quatenus sinceris matris precibus pro filio deprecantis sanctissimus pater aures sue clemencie propiciatus inclinet; eumque sic dignetur suscipere commendatum, ut matris instancias cum effectu sibi senciat profuisse. Vestram sanctitatem ad universalis ecclesie solacium in prosperis conservet diutine cujus vicem geritis, Filius Virginis gloriose. Humillimi et devoti apostolice beatitudinis filii Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

Fol. 5 b.

22.

Lysurs[1].

Testimonial letter for Master John Turry.

1426. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in Eo, qui via veritas est et vita. Egressus e summo celo Unigenitus Dei Filius, miserabilem humanitatis ad vallem, veritati testimonium perhibuit, nobis relinquens exemplum veritati testimonium consimiliter perhibere. Hinc est quod nos, omnibus quorum interest per presentes attestamur, quod

[1] At the left-hand corner of the margin and at the right-hand corner of the next folio in the MS. is written the name *Lysurs*. Thomas Lysurs was proctor in 1426.

venerabilis vir Johannes Turry utriusque juris bacallarius, rector ecclesie parochialis de Hannberith[1] Lincolniensis diocesis, est et fuit inter nos reputatus bone fame, opinionis illese, nulloque crimine notorie irretitus. Ne igitur ex aliqua calumpniancium invidia ejus persona status aut fama in aliquo obfuscetur, eidem super premissis has litteras testimoniales sigillo Universitatis predicte fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo mensis Aprilis die vicesimo secundo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo sexto.*

23.

Testimonial letter.

For Master J. Croxby and Master Robert Glowceter, resident members of the University, supporting their application for assistance[2].

VENERABILIBUS et circumspectis viris, amicis nostris carissimis salutem, et fidem indubiam presentibus adhibere. Egressus e summo celo Unigenitus Dei Filius, miserabilem descendens humanitatis ad vallem, veritati testimonium perhibuit, nobis relinquens exemplum testimonium veritati consimiliter perhibere. Hinc est quod nos super vita et conversacione honesta dilectorum confratrum nostrorum, magistrorum Johannis Croxby, in theologia bacallarii, et Roberti Glowcetur, in artibus magistri, vestras reverencias cerciorare volentes, per has nostras litteras attestamur, quod iidem magistri suis facultatibus operam dantes efficacem in eisdem laudabiliter student et proficiunt, ac, juxta statuta et consuetudines nostre Universitatis, pacifice, quiete et honeste inter nos sunt et fuerant conversati; adeo quod cetum nostrum sua virtuosa decorant presencia, et eos nullo novimus crimine innodatos; set morum gravitate prefulgentes matura, Dei amorem et hominum immaculati nominis titulo vendicabant in presenti, licet quorundam audivimus suggestio sit adversa. Unde, ne calumpniancium invidia aut insidiancium hora maliciose captata eorum status penes vos mendaciorum nebulis obfuscentur illicite, eisdem magistris super eorum statu laudabili, ut vobis innotescat, has nostras litteras fecimus consignari; vobis attencius supplicantes quatenus eisdem magistris plenitudinem vestre benevolencie effundatis suis in negociis penes vos prosequendis, quoad sustentacionem 1426.

[1] Or *Hannberich* MS., probably Hanborough.

[2] This testimonial letter has unfortunately no title or definite address. It is, as will be seen, not a patent letter, but is addressed to some society or separate body, probably to the authorities of some religious house or order.

eis meritoriam, cum illis non provideantur ex certo de necessariis aliunde tangentibus[1]. Vestras reverencias conservet in prosperis clemencia Redemptoris.

24.

Testimonial letter for Master John Major.

1426. UNIVERSIS et singulis sancte matris filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in Eo, qui via veritas est et vita. De summo celo egressus Unigenitus Dei Filius, ad yma mundi descendens, veritati testimonium perhibuit, nobis relinquens exemplum veritati testimonium consimiliter perhibere. Hinc est quod nos, super vita et conversacione honesta dilecti confratris nostri, magistri Johannis Maior, omnes quorum interest cerciorare volentes, per has nostras litteras attestamur, quod de predicti confratris nostri meritis laudifluis, per diversarum facultatum gradus et studia, tanta experiencia precessit unde famosa sui nominis opinio, quam apud nos in apicem honoris pretulerunt gloriose accionis preconia, latere non valuit; sed pocius super candelabrum erigi digna ceteris studentibus lucem ingentem exhibuit, et vitale imitacionis exemplum singulariter ministravit. In facultate namque, post longeva studia, magistratum adeptus notabiles actus philosophicos laudabiliter exercuit, et exinde ad facultatem medicinarum se transferens, scolas reparans medicinales, ipsam scienciam accrescere fecit in palmites sui sudoris per culturam, ac tandem, meritis suis exigentibus, inceptoris honorem obtinuit in eadem. Unde, ne calumpniancium invidia aut hora insidiancium maliciose captata tante honestatis splendor alicui in dubium posset revocari, eidem magistro super premissis, ut omnibus plenius innotescat, has litteras testimoniales nostre Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo mensis Junii die vicesimo septimo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo sexto.*

25.

Fol. 6 a. **To the President and other prelates of Black Monks in general chapter assembled.**

The University has never had a general school for theology. Now that the building of one has been commenced, and we are unable to complete it for want of funds, your assistance is earnestly requested. All graduates and scholars of your order shall be free to use the

[1] tangendis?

school. We ask in confidence, remembering the beneficence of your order, and that in fact the University owes its foundation to you.

VENERABILIBUS in Christo patribus, dominis presidentibus ceterisque prelatis ordinis Sancti Benedicti in sacro generali capitulo nigrorum monachorum presencialiter congregatis, prospera successuum incrementa ac sinceris affectibus annuere postulatis. Reverendissimi in Christo patres et prestantissimi domini, quia nuper, ex Spiritus clemencia septiformis, piis quorumdam cordibus fuerat celitus inspiratum ut ad Dei laudis honorem augmentumque studii salutaris scole universales sacre theologie, quibus a primevo[1] orbati fuimus, pro communi omnium utilitate durabili fabrica levarentur; nosque ad hujusmodi operis fundamentaliter jam incepti debitum complementum ex nostris non sufficimus; vestris paternitatibus predevotis pro nostri defectus relevamine eo confidencius duximus supplicandum, quo nostris profundius radicatur in mentibus quod alma Universitas mater nostra, cujus preclara fecunditas orbem dignificat universum, per vestri ordinis sacrosancti patres precipuos et alumnos sue honorifice fundacionis felix exordium sumpserit felicissimumque progressum: tenentesque firmissime certissimeque sperantes, quod nostra supplex peticio, que consonat caritati, a tam devotis patribus vacua non redibit, quos ad patrum presidencium opera confovenda divina providebit gracia dignissimos successores. Quocirca vestre sacre congregacionis cetui venerando devota precum libamina effundimus pia mente; unanimiter supplicantes quatenus ad tam sacri tam utilis tamque necessarii operis incrementum vestre[2] gratissime liberalitatis manus munificas extendere dignemini graciose; indubie cognoscentes quod omnes vestri ordinis graduati singuli et scolares, quoad actus quoscunque in scolis eisdem scolastice exercendos[3], subducto quovis obstaculi repulsivo, facultate gaudebunt. Et quia singula nostrum concernencia negocium sub literali compendio claudere non valemus, nostre cause promocionem discretissimis viris patribus venerabilibus, domino Edmundo Cretton, Priori studencium, necnon eximiis sacre theologie professoribus magistris Thome Ledbery et Johanni Crosse, ac[4] Wyllelmo Hebchestre, in eadem facultate[4] venerabili incepturo[5], vestris piis presenciis committimus declarandam; quorum relatibus aurem favoris et credencie benignius exhibere tantorum dignetur patrum devocio veneranda. Ceterum, patres dignissimi, cum vestre sacre religionis commodum et honorem instinctus nos excitet naturalis 1426.

[1] *primeva* MS. [2] *vestri gratissimi* ib. [3] *exercendis* ib. [4] An erasure in both these places, but, apparently, only a repetition of the commencement of the word following. [5] *incepturi* MS.

intimius affectare, eo quod, ut superius est expressum, benedicta manus monastica nostre Universitatis posuerat fundamenta, hinc est quod vestras paternitates exhortamur in Domino et attencius exoramus, quatinus concorditer disponatis ut singuli studentes vestri ordinis, quos morum ornat honestas sciencie claritasque decorat, ad universalis ecclesie et presertim ordinis vestri stabile fundamentum, in facultatibus quibus proficiunt condigne valeant graduare[1]; ut sic, augmentata[2] in vestra sacra religione graduatorum clerimonia, emulorum perversitas, que multum invigilat his diebus, facilius repellatur. Sed, inter prematuros alios vestre sancte religionis viros, prefatum[3] venerabilem patrem dominum Edmundum Kirton[4], monachum vestrum studenciumque Priorem, qui nedum legitimo cursu secundi studii, verum eciam sano atque politico regimine sui[5] gregis utrobique virtuose resplendet, ad apicem fastigii doctoralis, ut bravium recipiat dignissime post labores, vestra promovere dignetur discrecio paternalis; quibus, ad felix regnum pariter et tutum monastice religionis, felices successus annuat benignitas Redemptoris. *Scripta Oxonie domo*[6] *mensis Junii die ultimo.*

26.

Fol. 6 b.

Littera directa domino Cantuariensi.

Gratitude for former favours, and thanks for his liberal donation towards the building of the new schools, and for his condescension in advocating the claims of the University for assistance from the prelates and nobles assembled in the last Session of Parliament.

1426. Reverencias omnimodas omni obediencia filiali debita tanto patri, et vestre[7] prelacie sidus luciferum, ad nostre relevacionis tutelam longevam, per tempora piis radiis rutilare[8]. Reverendissime in Christo pater[9], exultat Universitas nostra et, ex uberibus vestre consolacionis graciose referta, dilatatur in gaudio eo quod vestre prehonorande dominacionis proteccio, fraterne benignitatis cataractas aperiens, continui[10] favoris ymbres distillare non cessat, ad[11] nostri studii incrementum. Scimus enim, et evidencium signorum probacione didiscimus, quod vestra graciosa paternitas vigilanti ex corde desiderat ut ampli orbis de finibus congregata genimina, que nostri studii complantantur in agro, in scienciis floreant, in virtute fructi-

[1] *graduari* MS. [2] *augmenta* ib. [3] *An erasure again, similar to* (4) supra. [4] Spelt above *Cretton* MS. [5] *sue* ib. [6] *in nostre congregationis*, omitted in MS. [7] *vestris* ib. [8] *rutilari* ib. [9] *patrem* ib. [10] *continue* ib. [11] *a* ib.

ficent, et ad honores frondeant testimonii gradualis[1]; et sic nostre Universitatis fertili de campo olive oriantur fructifere, que sancte conversacionis diffundant odorem oleumque catholice[2] doctrine predicando multiplicent in ecclesia sancta:—In cujus[3] rei evidenciam, ut nostris de mentibus vestre munificencie non evanesceret stabiliter registrata memoria, ex nostri Cancellarii[4] relatu jam nuper accepimus quod vestre magnificencie manus largiflue, beneficiis prioribus dona de novo[5] cumulando gratuita, de vestris fertiliter paraverint errariis auri summam copiosam, per quam scolarum nostrarum noviter inchoata fundamina processus amplexetur felicior, ad sciencie fulcimentum. O, igitur, quanta graciarum cumulata tributa juste racionis ex dictamine obligamur persolvere vestre prenobili dignitati[6]; que nedum sic proprium largiencia[7] thesaurum ad filie sue Universitatis nostre clementer respexerit inopiam, quin immo[8] vestre dominacionis celcitudo, gratanter[9] ubera recognoscens materna, que vestre quondam juventuti lacteam dulcedinem[10] ministrabant sciencie, pro nobis formam servi non verebatur induere; quum in ultimo parliamentali consilio, penes alios hujus regni venerabiles patres et dominos, ut ipsi scolarum nostrarum ad edificium sua gratuita propinarent subsidia, vestra viscerosis insudabat instanciis benignitas pastoralis. O generositas, O gratuitas, et O precellens nobilitas vestre consideracionis in conclavi quam merito extollenda! Quum inclinetur cedrus alta humilis exaltetur ut vinea, flectatur columpna elevetur ut area, descendat pinnaculum bassum ut surgat edificium Domini. Sic pater pro filiis, dominus pro famulis, prelatus pro subditis fieri voluit advocatus. Quocirca pro vestris donis magnificis et instanciis tam benignis profunda cordis de vena fontali graciarum acciones unanimiter exhaurimus, quas vestre precellencie paternali totis visceribus immolamus, cetumque rogantes spiritu cum prostrato ut in hiis, que vestre dignitatis eminencie pastorali Cancellarii nostri intimabit fidelitas, cui in dicendis dignemini aures prebere credencie, vestre benignitatis oculum largitatis summe et proteccionis brachium subito[11] cum favore convertat aperiat pariter et extendat longevi temporis per successum vestre prelacie preeminens celsitudo. Quam ad felix regnum gregis et vestre Universitatis munimen diuturna longevet per tempora futurorum bonorum pontifex Jesus Christus, quem Virginis[12] . . . &c.

[1] *graduales*, corrected in MS. [2] *oleum catholiceque* ib.: this transposition of *que* is very frequent in the MS. [3] *et in cujus* MS. [4] *consellarii* ib. [5] *nova* ib. [6] *degnittati* ib. [7] Perhaps *largiendo*? There is however no ambiguity whatever in the MS. [8] *quin in immo* ib. [9] *gratenter* ib. [10] *delcedinem* ib. [11] A mistake for *solito*, see next epist. [12] The conclusion is omitted.

Scriptum Oxonie nostre congregacionis in domo, quum mensis Julii in die septimo discurrebat &c.

27.

To the Dean of St. Paul's, London.

Thanks for past favours and his donation to the new schools.

1426. DECANO S. Pauli Londoniis.

Honorande domine, exultat Universitas mater nostra, et ex uberibus vestre consolacionis graciose refecta dilatatur in gaudio, eo quod vestre prehonorande dominacionis pietas continui favoris ymbres distillare non cessat, ad nostri studii incrementum: Scimus enim et evidencium signorum probacione didiscimus, quod vestra fecunda devocio vigilanti ex corde desiderat ut ampli orbis de finibus congregata genimina, que nostri studii complantantur in agro, in scienciis floreant, in virtute fructificent, et ad honores frondeant testimonii gradualis: ut sic nostre Universitatis fertili de campo olive oriantur fructifere, que sancte conversacionis diffundant odorem, oleumque catholice doctrine predicando multiplicent in ecclesia sancta Dei. In cujus rei evidenciam, ut nostris de mentibus vestre munificencie non evanesceret stabiliter registrata memoria, mente sepe repetimus quanta magnifice largiflua manus vestra nobis graciose donavit, quibus scolarum nostrarum noviter inchoata fundamenta processus amplexetur felicior, ad sciencie fulcimentum. Pro quibus profundi cordis de vena fontali graciarum acciones unanimiter exhaurimus, quas nobilitati vestre totis visceribus immolamus; rogantes spiritu cum prostrato, ut in hiis que dominacioni vestre Cancellarii nostri intimabit fidelitas, cui in dicendis aures dignemini prebere credencie vestre, benignitatis oculum et largitatis sinum convertat et aperiat solito cum favore longevi temporis per successum vestre dominacionis nobilitas prelibata; quam ad nostri solacium longevet in prosperis Jesus Christus pius[1] ovium consolator. Amen.

28.

Fol. 7 a.

To the Bishop of[2] . . . .

A petition for assistance in building the new schools. Our Chancellor will in person give particulars.

[1] *et pius* MS. [2] There is no title or address. At the head of this folio an abortive address begins, *Honorandi et in Christo carissimi, quia nuper ex spiritu clemencia septiformis*, and then breaks off.

REVERENDE in Christo pater et domine, quia[1] nuper ex spiritus clemencia septiformis piis quorumdam cordibus fuerat celitus inspiratum, ut, ad summi regis honorem augmentumque studii salutaris, scole universales sacre theologie, quibus a primevo orbati fuimus, pro communi omnium utilitate durabili fabrica levarentur; nosque, ad hujusmodi operis fundamentaliter jam incepti debitum complementum ex propriis non valemus, vestre dominacioni predevote pro nostri defectus relevacione eo confidencius duximus supplicandum, quo nostris profundius radicatur in mentibus, quam gratanter ejusdem vestre dominacionis celsitudo ubera recognoscendo materna, que vestre quondam juventuti lacteam dulcedinem sciencie ministrabant, et Universitatem nostram odorifera fama vestri diffuse per orbem sublimavit in laude, et membris ipsius variis gratuita multipliciter subsidia propinavit. Hinc tenentes firmissime certissimeque sperantes quod nostra simplex peticio, que caritati consonat et studencium profectum respicit, quorum alumpnus probamini singularis, a tam devota paternali gracia vacua non redibit, dominacioni vestre devota precum libamina effundimus; pia mente unanimiter supplicantes quatinus, ad tam sacri tam utilis tamque necessarii operis incrementum, vestre liberalitatis manus munificas exercere dignemini graciose. Et, quia singula nostrum concernencia negocium sub literali compendio claudere non valemus, nostre cause promocionem Cancellario nostro dominacioni vestre committimus declarandam, cujus relatibus aurem favoris et prudencie exhibere benignius tanti dignetur patris preeminens celsitudo[2]; quam ad felix regimen vestri gregis et Universitatis nostre munimen diuturna longevet per tempora futurorum bonorum Pontifex Jesus Christus. 1426.

29.

To the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury. Fol. 7 b.

We cannot out of our own resources complete the new schools, and venture to ask your help, with the more confidence because many of your members were educated at Oxford.

VENERABILIBUS ac circumspectis viris, domino Decano et capitulo ecclesie cathedralis Sarum. 1426.

Felicium incrementa successuum, et ad sacre fulcimentum sciencie de vestre fontibus bonitatis grati subsidii rivulos[3] fecundius emanare. In Christo prehonorandi et caritatis amplexibus dignissime confovendi,

[1] *qui* MS. [2] *celsituto* ib. [3] *rivilos* ib.

quia jam nuperrime pia quorumdam precordia de Illius fontali dulcedine, qui est fons vivus, ignis, caritas et spiritalis unccio, sic celitus degustarunt ut, ad divine laudis excellenciam augmentumque studii salutaris, scole universales sacre theologie, quibus a primevo caruimus, pro communi omnium utilitate durabili fabrica levarentur; nosque opus hujusmodi parcialiter inchoatum ad optatum finem ex nostris deducere non valemus; de vestre benevolencie fecunditate fontali, ad nostre relevamen inopie, eo confidencius predulcia exhaurire speramus subsidia, quo in vestro venerabili collegio, quod stabilis figitur ut columpna in ecclesia sancta Dei, multa cognoscimus membra nobilia, que diviciis affluunt, caritate relucent et liberalitate precellunt ad exsequendum egentibus devocius opera pietatis. Ad quorum corda nostras preces introducendo eciam tanto audacius animamur, quo vestri predicti collegii in orto dignifico varii plantantur alumpni, qui gradualis honoris gloriosos collegerunt manipulos scienciarum ex semine, quod facultatum speciosa varietas nostre Universitatis in agro fertiliter seminavit. Quare tenemus firmissime, et nostris confidenciis certissime arbitramur, quod nostra pia peticio, que tam universalis boni promovet incrementum, non redibit inanis a tam venerando collegio, cujus nobilitatis lux fontana scintillantis fame splendoribus in regno prerutilat universo. Vestre igitur congregacionis cetum prenobilem assiduis precum instanciis intimius exoramus; concorditer supplicando quatinus, tam necessarii operis utilitatem interne consideracionis oculo perpendentes, ad gratum ipsius juvamen palmas extendere liberales vestre dignetur munificencie nobilitas merito recolenda; quam in statu prospero et honoris augmento per diuturna continuet fons et vitale principium omnium creatorum. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo mensis Augusti die vicesimo septimo.*

Sub hac [forma][1] *scripsit Universitas ad Decanum et Collegium Wellense, Exoniense et Lincolniense.*

30.

To the Presidents and other prelates of the Order of S. Augustine, now assembled in their Chapter at Northampton.

Many of your Order owe their education to Oxford, we pray you therefore with the more confidence to supplement of your charity our scanty means, which are insufficient for the completion of the new schools.

[1] *forma* omitted in MS.

VENERABILIBUS in Christo patribus, dominis presidentibus ceterisque prelatis ordinis S. Augustini in generali capitulo canonicorum apud Northamptone congregatis. 1427.

Venerabilibus in Christo patribus, dominis presidentibus ceterisque prelatis ordinis S. Augustini in sacro generali capitulo regularium canonicorum presencialiter congregatis, prospera successuum, et sinceris affectubus annuere postulatis. Reverendissimi in Christo patres et domini prestantissimi, quia nuper pia quorumdam precordia de Illius fontali dulcedine, qui est fons vivus, ignis, caritas et spiritalis unccio sic celitus degustarunt, at ad divine laudis excellenciam augmentumque studii salutaris scole universales sacre theologie, quibus a primevo orbati fuimus, pro communi omnium utilitate durabili fabrica levarentur, nosque ad hujusmodi operis fundamentaliter jam incepti debitum complementum ex nostris non sufficimus, vestris paternitatibus predevotis pro nostri defectus relevamine eo confidencius duximus supplicandum, quo nostris[1] profundius radicatur in mentibus quod vestre sacre religionis in orto dignissimo varii plantantur alumpni, qui gradualis honoris gloriosos collegerunt manipulos scienciarum ex semine, quod facultatum speciosa varietas nostre Universitatis in agro fertiliter seminavit; tenentes firmissime certissimeque sperantes quod nostra simplex peticio, que consonat caritati, a tam devotis patribus vacua non redibit. Quocirca vestre sacre congregacionis cetui venerando devota precum libamina effundimus, pia mente unanimiter supplicantes, quatinus ad tam sacri tam utilis tam necessarii operis incrementum vestre gratissime liberalitatis manus munificas extendere dignemini graciose. Et quia singula nostrum concernencia negocium literali sub compendio claudere non valemus, nostre cause promocionem honorando viro domino Cancellario nostro circumspeccionibus vestris prelibatis committimus declarandam, cujus relatibus aurem favoris et credencie benignius exhibere tantorum dignetur patrum devocio veneranda. Quibus, ad felix regimen pariter et tutamen vestre sacre religionis ac tocius ecclesie, felices successus annuat benignitas Redemptoris. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo mensis Junii die duodecimo.*

[1] *nostræ* MS.

31[1].

Fol. 8 a.

A form of letter.

Honorandi et in Christo carissimi: Quia nuper, ex spiritus clemencia septiformis, piis quorumdam cordibus fuerat celitus inspiratum ut, ad summi regis honorem augmentumque studii salutaris, scole universales sacre theologie, quibus a primevo orbati fuimus, pro communi omnium utilitate durabili fabrica levarentur, nosque ad hujusmodi operis fundamentaliter jam incepti debitum complementum ex propriis non valemus; vestris reverenciis predevotis pro nostri defectus relevamine eo confidencius duximus supplicandum, quo nostris profundius radicatur in mentibus quam graciose munifica manus vestra grata solebat egentibus subsidia propinare; per hoc tenentes firmissime certissimeque sperantes quod nostra supplex peticio, que caritati consonat, et universalem studencium profectum respicit, a tam liberali devocione vacua non redibit; presertim cum inter cetera pietatis opera putemus id magis in salutem animarum redundare finaliter, quod ad orthodoxae[2] fidei fulcimentum et augmentum sciencie principalius se extendit. Quocirca reverenciis vestris devota precum libamina effundimus pia mente, unanimiter supplicantes quatenus, ad tam sacri tam utilis tamque necessarii operis incrementum, vestre liberalitatis manus munificas extendere dignemini graciose. Et, quia singula nostrum concernencia negocium sub literali compendio claudere non valemus, nostre cause promocionem Cancellario nostro circumspeccioni vestre committimus declarandam, cujus relatibus aures favoris et credencie exhibere benignius dignetur tantorum reverencia predevota; quam ad solacium pauperum diu longevet in prosperis medicus vitalis omnium ipse Deus.

32.

To the Master of S. Thomas' Hospital, London.

Your labours for our welfare could not be greater had you been educated here; we therefore confidently beg that you will intercede for us with wealthy citizens of London, that they may assist us in building

[1] No title, address, or date; probably this is only a form for general use. The Chancellor, evidently, was to be furnished with several such letters, to be delivered at a personal interview. [2] *ortodoxe* in the MS. has the letter *h* written over by the same hand.

the new schools, and that you will advise our Chancellor how to cast his net on the right side of the ship, when he appeals to them for assistance.

MAGISTRO S. Thome Londoniensi.

Venerande domine et amice predilecte: Quia fide digno ex relatu concipimus, quod vestre amicicie grata benignitas Universitatem nostram tam sinceri cordis amplexatur in brachiis, ac si ipsam veneracionem vestram a vestre juventutis cunabulis scienciarum cum dulcore proprio lactasset ex ubere, in tantum quod, pro nostris ampliandis honoribus, vestra mens pervigilat, lingua laborat effectus operis quod insudat, ut amoris signa declarant, multimodaque vestre gratitudinis flamma non cessat extendere nostros ad filios graduatos. Hinc est quod firme confidencie in presenti nobis accrevit audacia, ut nostre Universitatis negocia, penes civitatis Londoniensis preclaros cives promovenda felicius, vestre constantis amicicie ad humeros producamus. Nuper enim, ad augmentum theologice facultatis, Sancti Spiritus clemencia quorumdam cordibus inspiravit devotis, ut ad novas scolas in Universitate nostra, speciosa levandas in fabrica, suas manus aperirent munificas, qui ad tam caritativum opus de suis facultatibus devotissime sunt largiti. Virtute cujus largicionis graciose muri scolarum predictarum, jam terre surgentes de sinu, stabilia susceperunt fundamina, et cicioris ortus processu crescerent jam in altum, si vestre preclare civitatis cives venerabiles, qui diviciis fulgent, devocione relucent et largitate precellunt, edificacionem istam, ad Christiane fidei inchoatam fulcimentum, suis devotis cum muneribus devocius irrigarent. Quocirca, cum tenemus quod multi inclite civitatis predicte cives nobiliores in dignitate, preclariores in forma et potenciores in thesauris vestre prudencie constanciam tante dileccionis amplexantur in federe, quod ad eorum corda si pulsatis, aperiunt; suadetis, assentiunt; supplicatis, exaudiunt: igitur vestram amiciciam intimius supplicamus, ut, ad opus tam pium felicius prosperandum, civium vestrorum corda, ubi congruit, pulsare dignemini; nostroque Cancellario vestre prudencie de archa dignemini impertiri consilium, sibi patenter intimando quibus in locis sue supplicacionis rete mittere poterit in dextram navigii, ut de visceribus devotorum cordium auri staterem valeat extrahere, qui nostri predicti edificii cedere queat in profectum, ad catholice[1] facultatis augmentum, et ad robur fidei, quam nobis tradidit Jesus Christus; Qui vestram amiciciam tempora felicitet per longeva, et future premiacionis eternis ditet muneribus pro multipharia gratitudine, quam nobis nostris ostendit graduatis in filiis vestra benignitas generosa. *Scriptum Oxonie, &c.*

[1] *chatholice* MS.

33.

Fol. 8 b. **Testimonial letter for Master John Clerk.**

1430. [1] Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, salutem in Domino sempiternam. Quia, juxta sentenciam veritatis, accensa lucerna non est modio supponenda, sed super candelabrum erigenda, ut omnibus, qui in domo Domini conversantur, clarius elucescat; morum venustatem, sciencie claritatem et odoriferam fame suavitatem eorum, qui inter nos efficacius profecerunt, ad communem fidelium noticiam eo fervencius cupimus pervenire, quo conversacionis sue maturitas et laboris assiduitas ad Dei laudem, proximorum salutem, ecclesieque sancte profectum evidencius tendere dinoscentur. Hinc est quod nos, super virtuosa vita et probitate sciencie dilecti nobis in Christo confratris nostri magistri Johannis Clerk, Sarisburiensis diocesis, sacre theologie baccalarii, omnes quorum interest cerciorare volentes, per has nostras litteras attestamur, quod idem magister Johannes Clerk inter nos bene honeste ac laudabiliter conversatus, proficiens virtute et sciencia coram Deo et hominibus, ad ipsum baccalariatus gradum honorifice meruit exaltari; et jam per annos plurimos, velut lucerna a vera luce divinitus illustrata, evangelice doctrine radiis auditores illuminans, in vinea Domini Sabaoth, tanquam fidelis servus et prudens, qui non abscondit pecuniam domini sui, fideliter laboravit, prout per noticiam propriam, una cum fama celebri referente, plenam recepimus veritatem. Unde, ne, quod absit, tante perfeccionis et honestatis splendida lux occultetur vel pereat, quin pocius cedat aliis in lumen et exemplum, et lacius diffundatur, ad sui recommendacionem et testimonium omnium premissorum, eidem magistro Johanni Clerk confratri nostro has litteras testimoniales sigillo communi Universitatis nostre fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis secundo die mensis Decembris anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo.*

[1] This letter is misplaced in the MS., where it occurs among other letters of the year 1427. Where such misplacement is beyond doubt the fact is noticed, as here, at the foot of the page; but it appears to be desirable to reproduce the original as nearly as possible in its actual form, not to rearrange anything unnecessarily.

34.

Form of letter.

Fol. 9 a.

VENERANDE domine, quia nuper ex spiritus clemencia septiformis piis quorum[dam][1] cordibus fuerat celitus inspiratum, ut ad summi regis honorem augmentumque studii salutaris, scole universales sacre theologie, quibus a primevo orbati fuimus, pro communi omnium utilitate durabili fabrica levarentur, nosque ad hujusmodi operis fundamentaliter jam incepti debitum complementum imponere ex propriis non valemus, vestris reverenciis predevotis pro nostri defectus relevacione eo confidencius duximus supplicandum, quo fidedigne relacionis fama nostras perduxit ad aures, quod ad opera pietatis exequenda devocius vestre compassionis aperiuntur viscera, extendi solet manus munifica; vestreque devocionis frequens testatur elemosina quod celo plus quam mundo vestri spiritus copulatur. Quare tenemus firmissime certissimeque speramus, &c.; *per omnia sicut scribitur in prima littera proximi folii precedentis, excepto quod dicatur,* "quocirca vestre reverencie," *et non* "reverenciis."

35[2].

To the Bishop of ——.

Commending Master T. Benewell, with thanks for favours hitherto shown to him.

Fol. 9 b.

REVERENDE in Christo pater et domine, relacio fide digna nostras perduxit ad aures quam caritative vestre compassionis oculus dilectum confratrem nostrum, magistrum Thomam Benewell in artibus magistrum, in se ac suis munifice visitavit; cujus intuitu stimulamur dignissime vestre dominacioni internissimas libare gracias uno corde; hoc ipsum recensentes nobis in communi collatum, quod matris nostre minimo vertitur ad profectum. Ex operibus quidem devocionis vestre tantam fiduciam exhaurimus, quatenus progredientes ulterius pro dicto fratre nostro, concorditer et humillime postulemus ut illum sic morum et sciencie laude preclarum, sui contuitu meriti et nostrarum precum instancia, gracie vestre recommissum habere, et que in ipso cepta novimus continuare benigniter dignetur vestra predevota semper honoranda paternitas prelibata; quam per freta 1427.

[1] *quorum* MS.

[2] No title or address.

seculi indefectibilis nauta salutis ad portum cursu prospero secure provehat ubertatis. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo die tercio mensis Julii.*

36.

To the Pope.

We rejoice that your holiness is exalted to be supreme ruler of the church; and that the pest of heresy is being cured by your efforts to enlighten the clergy, to induce princes to rule with justice, and to correct immorality among the people. We trust you may be guided by wisdom from above in all you do; and we earnestly beg that you will not believe the malicious reports which have been made to you respecting the Archbishop of Canterbury. He is in truth universally beloved for his Christian character, and is a zealous defender of the church.

1427. Sanctissimo in Christo patri et domino, domino nostro Martino, divina providencia sacrosancte Romane et universalis ecclesie summo pontifici.

Beatissime pater, humillima filiali recommendacione[1] premissa; terre osculum ante pedes. Beatissime pater, interne consolacionis exultat in jubelo vestre sanctissime paternitatis ancilla Oxoniensis Universitas; dum in corpore militantis ecclesie, quam a latere Crucifixi sanguis dedicavit effusus, almam personam vestram, verum caput, presidere conspicimus, quam unum summum pontificem et in terris Christi vicarium ac Petri verissimum successorem concentu cordium indubie profitemur[2]. Et merito vestra exaltacio summi pontificatus ad arcem nobis ingentis gaudii propinat materiam; cum varia ecclesie membra, que quondam scismatice pestis erant infirmata contagio, jam ex unius capitis influccione multiplici latis in ecclesie finibus recipiunt sanitatem; cujus evidenciam ex hoc sumimus, quod vestra paternitas, ut pastor pervigil, augere nititur in clero lumen sciencie; suadet principibus suos gubernare subjectos per ceptrum iusticie; Christianorum mores satagit corrigere, et late per orbem extirpare desudat orrenda genimina heresium[3] et errorum. Non ergo tantum nostra jubelare debet Universitas de tanti et sanctissimi exaltacione pontificis, verum etiam universi debent congaudere Christicole, pensantes quomodo Jesus Christus, vestre paternitati suam universalem desponsans ecclesiam, multas animas tenebrosi scismatis eduxerat de Egypto, verum Aaron prefecit in sanctuario, fidelem Samuelem judicem constituit in populo, et certe ad felix regimen Christiane

[1] A word follows here, which seems to be only an abortive repetition of *premissa*. [2] *profetemur* MS. [3] *heresum* ib.

gentis alterum David sublimare disposuit manufortem, qui civitatem sanctam ecclesiam Jesu Christi muniret libertatibus, liberaret ab hostibus, purgaret a spurciciis, solidaret in fide, stabiliret in pace, et cunctam[1] gentem Christianam niteretur dirigere per rectam semitam legis Dei. O felix hora, in qua Christi clemencia suorum electorum precibus excitari dignatur a sompno, ne scismatica tempestate Petri navicula periret in fluctibus; quia certe confidimus quod tunc Christus imperavit[2] ventis et mari ut fieret tranquillitas magna, quum cunctis providendo salubriter sanctitatem vestram ad apostolice dignitatis apicem sublimavit. Benedictus ergo Dominus, cujus manus fecit hec, omnia disponens pro reformacione ecclesie sue sancte, ut post scismatice noctis tenebras unitatis Aurora gaudiosa consurgeret, animarum vulneribus balsamum salutis efflueret, et sponsa Domini **Fol. 10 a.** languens in suspiriis veri sponsi amplexum in ipsa die susciperet, quum, septiformis Spiritus coöperante clemencia, sacrosancti concensus concilii in firmamento militantis ecclesie celsitudinem vestram, ut planetam precipuum, ad Petri solium dignissime subrogavit. Certe hec est dies quam fecit Dominus, cujus lumen graciosum, unanimis Constancie concilii per consensum oriens, cum non sit palliatum sed verum, non divisum sed integrum, non scismatice partitum sed gracia Dei unitum, exultare et letari Christiane fidei fideles excitat universos. Inter quos nos humillimi vestre predicte Universitatis filii congratulari debemus et pariter congaudere; precipue cum vestre sanctissime proteccionis alas nobis semper expansas cognovimus, et vestre dignacionis radios incessanter nobis dirigi probavimus multis signis; super quo genibus flexis vestri sanctissimi[3] pontificatus ad pedes omnis obediencie prostrati cum spiritu, tributa persolvimus graciarum. Ceterum in vobis infusa confisi de gracia, quod sicut futurorum bonorum Pontifex misericors, princeps pacis, in pace vos elegens exaltavit de plebe, in pace vos erigens summi pontificatus tronizavit in arce, et in pace vos confirmans vestro sanctissimo regimini, per obediencie vinculum, corda gentis subdidit Christiane; ita speramus in Domino quod vestre sanctissime paternitati in singulis actibus adest magni consilii Angelus, per quem in cunctis vestris operibus tante pacis redolescit suavitas, tante justicie refulget claritas, tante deliberacionis anchoratur maturitas, ut vestre sanctitatis animum nec oleum adulacionis poterit demulcere, nec sinistre[4] informacionis flatus quovismodo impellere, ut tam piissimus pater, tam justissimus judex et innocentissimus pastor a subjecto sibi filio absque gravi probacionis examine viscera claudat solite pietatis. Et propterea, beatissime pater, in materia, qua de presenti movemur ad gemitum,

[1] *cuntam* MS. [2] *impervit* ib. [3] *vestre santissimus* ib. [4] *senistre* ib.

nostras preces, licet indignas, ad innate vobis clemencie januas confidencius animamur inducere, et coram beatorum pedum provoluti vestigiis, humili[1] spiritu unanimes supplicamus, quatenus, impietas emulorum, qui, velut accepimus, 'exacuerunt ut gladium linguas suas,' et sermonibus odii circumdederunt[2] mansuetum pastorem, patrem pium et Universitatis nostre fervidum zelatorem, dominum Henricum Cantuariensem Archiepiscopum, sue fame et glorie maculam, quam non meruit, molientes imprimere, nullatenus consueti favoris et gracie prescindat vestre dignacionis influxum a dicto pastore nostro, laudabili plurimum ac ecclesie Anglicane perutili; in qua, micans irradiacione virtutum, imitandus anteponitur ceteris ad exemplar. Quin universi per limites sciunt principes, sciunt proceres, proclamant pauperes quod dictus noster reverendissimus pater est in ecclesia
Fol. 10 b. gentis nostre non rapax lupus sed pastor bonus, non arundo flatum sequens amicicie, sed stabilis ut columpna sacrosancte matris ecclesie, non piger et negligens in tuendis ecclesie libertatibus; sed ut fidus vestre sanctitatis ac sacrosancte Romane ecclesie filius, in sanctuario Dei solidus stat ut murus, quem fodere nequit simonista cupiditas, quem quatere nequit heretica pravitas; cum sit hic alter Jonathas, cujus sagitta nunquam abiit retrorsum hereticos persequendo. Miramur ergo, miramur, quis apud sanctissimam sedem vestram, timore Dei postposito, os suum aperire ausus est in verba mendacii contra patrem tam modestum et pium, virtutibus undique radiantem; cum sit hic vite speculum, vas virtutum, lucerna morum, fulcitus consilio, amabilis populo, clerique specialis alumpnus; cujus nos testes esse debemus, cum Universitatis nostre graduati plurimi, quos morum ac sciencie maturitas animarum preparavit ad curam, per antedictum patrem nostrum in vineam Domini Sabbaoth beneficiorum collacione provida fuerint vocati. Pater ergo beatissime, aures vestre sanctitatis avertite a scandalosis mendaciis incidiancium emulorum, qui, ut audivimus, sattagentes effundere sanguinem injuste nituntur opprimere virum justum. Et ut[3] dicti domini nostri Cantuariensis beatitudini vestre mores et vita pateant, credite regni nostri presulibus, credite proceribus, credite et nobis, licet indignis; quoniam sic in scriptis palleam pro grano, lollium pro tritico quis non tremeret presentare? Hinc obsecramus humillime quatenus dictum dominum et patrem nostrum, candelabrum aureum in templo ecclesie Anglicane prosecucione solita[4] favoris et gracie, ad subditorum sibi gaudium et munimen, confovere dignetur[5] vestri beatissimi culminis clemencia pastoralis; quam, post felix regimen ecclesie militantis, inter apostolice

[1] *humilis* MS. [2] *circumderunt* ib. [3] *ut* omitted ib. [4] *solitata* ib. [5] *digenetur* ib.

sedis vicarios in triumphanti Jerusalem futurorum bonorum Pontifex collocet Jesus Christus.

Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo vicesimo quarto die mensis Julii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo septimo.

Devotissimi sanctitatis vestre filii Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum vestre Universitatis Oxoniensis.

37.

To the Duke of Gloucester and the King's Council. Fol. 11 a.

Power is given from above 'for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of them that do well.' To you therefore, as zealous defenders of the truth, we with humble spirit open our difficulties. One William Melton of the Friars minors, a degenerate son of this University, has, notwithstanding his vows to the contrary, preached uncircumcised words and led astray the ignorant up and down the country. Hereupon we cited him to appear before us, and he submitted; but when we required him to appear again and to receive from us a sound form of discourses for his use, he failed to do so, and still remains impenitent, defies our authority and violates his oath.

ILLUSTRI et potenti principi ac domino nostro metuendo, Humfrido duci Gloucestrie comiti Hainaultie[1], Hollandie, Zeelandie, &c., ac regni Anglie protectori, reverendissimis in Christo patribus ac prelatis, ac dominis magnificis de consilio illustrissimi et metuendissimi domini nostri regis, dominis nostris graciosissimis. 1427.

Illustris et potens princeps, reverendissimi in Christo patres et domini magnifici, nobis plurimum graciosi, humillima matris nostre recommendacione premissa: A summo prodiens in filios hominum derivata[2] potestas, ad bonorum laudem vindictamque malorum, quosdam, ut non horreret confusio, sublimavit salubriter principes et pastores, quorum manu robusta lex communita succresceret[3], et justicia tribueret cunctis equo[4] libramine quod est suum. Sic in magna domo militantis ecclesie, sue bipharie mancionis spiritualis et temporalis, in firmissimas turres vos dignissime novimus exaltatos, quatinus alto vestri consilio, spiritu, brachioque vigoris extento, quod in subjecta plebe notorie deviat ad pacis et rectitudinis viam blande vel aspere reducatur. Ad vos igitur prenobiles domini, quos tenemus

[1] This word is quite hopeless in the MS., but there can be no doubt felt in supplying it, as the epistle belongs to the short time during which the Duke used this title. [2] *dirivata* MS. [3] *successeret* ib. [4] *eque* ib.

studii nostri defensores precipuos et veritatis fervidos zelatores, super hiis que nos et matrem nostram conturbant et angunt, que eciam non valemus dissimulare silencio, cum prostrato spiritu in presenti recurrimus uno corde; et eo fervencius dominacionibus vestris querulosa nudamus, quanto per easdem solidius credimus ecclesie et libertatibus nostris obvia reformari. Conceptam enim de quodam nunc degenerante, licet olim dicte nostre matris alumpno, fratre Willelmo Melton[1] de ordine Minorum admiracionis et turbacionis non injuste materiam, non sine punccione nostre mentis attendimus, sed inviti pocius eam referimus cum dolore. Hic enim obedienciam filialem in obsequendis privilegiis et statutis sepius matris nostre verbis et gestibus promittebat; qui eciam regni discurrendo provincias insana predicando disseruit, ac inter simplices et plebeios in plerisque locis per verba incircumcisa sediciose[2] docebat, prout fama publica, seu verius infamia, et fidedignorum testimonia testantur[3]. Quibus enormitatis excessibus nos ex pondere caritatis obviare curantes, dictum fratrem Willelmum citatum personaliter et postea comparentem sentenciam, correccionis modo, in venerando Minorum consilio benigniter affabamur. Ubi quibusdam articulis objectis sibi dulciter, qui et sui reformacionem ac debitum juramenti concernunt, ad tunc palam et libere decreto et ordinacioni Universitatis nostre protinus in omnibus se submisit. Et quia cor nostrum dedimus ob animarum salutem, ut quos dictus frater Willelmus prius incauto sermone nube quadam dubietatis[4] obvolverat, nostre diffinicionis luculento tenore per veritatis viam solide duceremus, ipsum alias ad diem certum comparere mandavimus, deliberaciori consilio purgatam a nobis predicandi formulam recepturum; que nec scrupulum ambiguitatis admittat, nec simplicibus oculis materiam offerat questionis. Ipso tamen adveniente die, eciam ulterius lapsis mensibus et diebus, sepedictus Willelmus proprie salutis immemor, licet graciose ad multos terminos exspectatus, non[5] sacramento per eum prestito aut salutaribus sue matris monitis adquiescens, ad ipsius matris ignominiam, contra libertates ejusdem stabilitas per tempora, supra quod in evo nostro de quovis patuit, in perniciosum exemplum aliis rebellavit; in qua rebellione, quam docent opera, usque in presens velut protervus et contumax perseverat. Quibus omnibus pia consideracione pensatis, dominacionibus vestris voto supplicamus unanimi et ex idemptitate cordium humillime deprecamur, quatinus dictum nobis rebellem, qui juramento recalcitrans in duricia sui cordis obdormit, coartare velitis

[1] This name is written, in contemporary hand, over the line, the original is only in initials W. M. [2] *sedicioso* MS. [3] *tetestantur* ib. [4] *dubertatis* ib. [5] *nam* ib.

manu potencie, ut ad obedienciam debitam et domicilium redeat sue matris; ipsorum itaque potestates agnoscet, quorum virtute statuta et privilegia nostra sunt condita, a Christianissimis regibus approbata; ne, quod absit, ipsorum violator et transgressor legum, latores legum et conditores per illum haberi occasionabit[1] in despectum. In premissis vero Cancellarius et procurator nostri, latores presencium, veridice noverunt dominaciones vestras prenobiles specialius informare; quibus favorem in agendis nostris et aurem credulam adhibere dignemini graciose. Et easdem vestras dominaciones clarissimas ad suum beneplacitum et tocius regni munimen defendat et roboret Rex omnium triumphator. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis* [*domo*[2]] *anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo septimo, septimo die Novembris.* Humillimi dominacionum vestrarum oratores Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non regencium in eadem.

38.

Fol. 11 b.

Testimonial letter for Master Henry Cheret.

1427.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie cetusque unanimis magistrorum in eadem regencium[3], salutem in Eo qui via veritas est et vita. Tociens altissime veritatis conspectui condignum credimus offerre[4] libamen quociens virtutibus[5] precellenti et sciencia fidele perhibemus testimonium digne laudis: Hinc est quod nos super vita et conversacione honesta dilecti confratris nostri magistri Henrici Cheret, in artibus magistri, omnes quorum interest cerciorare volentes, per has litteras nostras attestamur, quod idem magister in dicta Universitate regenciam suam fine concludens votivo, laudabiliter studuit et profecit[6], adeo quod, quamdiu sua presencia cetum nostrum decoraverat, illum nullo novimus crimine innodatum; sed morum gravitate prefulgens matura, Dei amorem et hominum immaculati nominis titulo vendicavit. Ne igitur calumpniancium invidia aut hora maliciose capta ejus status alicui possit in dubium revocari, eidem magistro super statu suo laudabili, ut omnibus plenius innotescat, has litteras testimoniales communi sigillo nostre Universitatis predicte fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo mensis Marcii die decimo anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo septimo.*

[1] *occasionabitur* MS. [2] Omitted in MS. [3] *in eadem* repeated in MS. [4] *offere* MS. [5] *virtutis* ib. [6] *profici* ib.

39.

Testimonial letter for Master Roger Downe.

1428. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Thomas Chace, sacre theologie professor, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem et pacem in Domino sempiternam. Quia vite et conversacionis honeste odorem suavissimum in nostro grege conversancium ad Christi fidelium noticiam ardenter cupimus, ut debemus, sub testimonio laudabili pervenire, nos dilecti confratris nostri fratris Rogeri Downe, ordinis Minorum[1], sacre theologie professoris, in dicta nostra Universitate magistrali regentis honore predicte facultatis laudabiliter suum complentis officium, vivendi regulam in moribus et sciencia sufficienti iudicio cognoscentes, singulis orthodoxe matris ecclesie filiis per has nostras litteras attestamur, quod suis exigentibus meritis ad sue laudabilis[2] conversacionis indicium per nos sibi meruit fidele testimonium perhiberi. Ne ergo calumpniancium invidia aut hora insidiancium maliciose captata ejus status qualitercunque possit in dubium revocari, eidem confratri nostro super statu suo laudabili et sue complecione regencie has litteras testimoniales sigillo communi nostre Universitatis fecimus consignari. *Data Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo mensis Julii die nono, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo octavo.*

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1428. Noverint universi per presentes nos, magistros Johannem Wygrym et Ricardum Babthorpe, procuratores Universitatis Oxoniensis, recepisse et habuisse die confeccionis presencium de religiosis viris Abbate et conventu Monasterii de Osenea juxta Oxoniam viginti et sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum, pro quadam pensione de anno regni regis Henrici sexti sexto: De quibus quidem viginti et sex solidos et octo denarios, pro predicta annua pensione, fatemur nos fore solutos; et inde predictos religiosos viros et eorum successores acquietamus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis antedicte presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis quinto die Februarii anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum septimo.*

[1] *minoris* MS. [2] *laudabilem* ib.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

Fol. 12 a.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, magistros Johannem Wygrym et Ricardum Babthorp, procuratores Universitatis Oxoniensis, recepisse et habuisse die confeccionis presencium de religiosis viris Abbate et conventu monasterii de Enseham, Lincolniensis diocesis, sexaginta et octo solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam pensione, de anno regni regis Henrici sexti sexto: De quibus quidem sexaginta et octo solidis, pro predicta annua pensione, fatemur nos fore solutos; et inde predictos religiosos viros et eorum successores acquietamus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis antedicte presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis quinto die Februarii anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum septimo.* 1428.

40.

To the Pope.

Commending Master John Stokis, and soliciting promotion in reward for his services.

SANCTISSIMO in Christo patri et domino, Domino Martino, divina providencia sacrosancte Romane et universalis ecclesie summo Pontifici. 1428.

Sanctissime pater, humillima et filiali recommendacione premissa, cum devotissimis terre osculis ante pedes. Immensa Dei patris sapiencia, cuncta disponens salubria, ecclesie sue sancte saluberrime providit, dum tantum patrem digne vocari voluit ad apostolatus culmina; qui pius pater novit esse laborantibus in studiis diuturnis, et, ut in doctrine stadio doctores catholici, morum claritate conspicui, scientificorum fructuum ubertate fecundi, expedicius currant, bravium statueret pro labore. Ideo vestre sanctitatis humillima ancilla, vestra Universitas Oxoniensis, firmissime credens quod, si viscerosis precibus mentem sanctissimi patris pinguem[1] tetigerit, fumigabit odorem bonum; si verissimam Christi petram devotis percusserit peticionibus fluent aque gracie salutaris; exemplo igitur matris filiorum Zebedei vestra Universitas Oxoniensis se exponit pro suo filio et karissimo confratre nostro magistro Johanne Stokis, legum doctore, famoso rerum experiencia, excellenter instructo, et in determinacione ecclesie Dei solidissime radicato. Ea devocione qua possumus supplicamus, quatinus sinceris matris precibus, pro filio digno deprecantis, aures

[1] *pingem* MS.

sue clemencie benignius inclinet pater sanctissimus, eumque sic commendatum suscipere [dignetur][1], ut matris preces humillime cum effectu profuisse senciat[2]; et fidelis servi industria congruis honoribus premietur. Vestram sanctissimam paternitatem diu et feliciter ad refugium ecclesie et fidei conservet et protegat in humanis, cujus vicem geritis, unus Deus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo Februarii die nono.* Humillimi et devoti apostolice sanctitatis filii Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

Decree of Congregation[3].

[4] *The University will maintain the Chancellor, proctors, and other their officers in defending their privilege, by resisting the mayor and his subordinates whenever they attempt to levy illegal taxes upon the vendors of provisions. And they will assist the Chancellor in raising money for repair of the streets.*

1428. Universis Christi fidelibus, notum sit per presentes, quod, decimo nono die mensis Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo octavo, in plena congregacione regencium Universitatis Oxoniensis, ex unanimi assensu et consensu omnium doctorum singulorumque magistrorum ibidem, decretum erat quod, si contingat magistrum Thomam Chace Cancellarium, procuratores aut aliquos alios magistros et servientes dicte Universitatis molestari seu quovismodo gravari racione execucionis privilegiorum ejusdem Universitatis; videlicet in resistendo Majori, ballivis seu aliis quibuscunque servientibus ville Oxonie, extorquentibus seu capientibus a venditoribus victualium, scilicet ostreorum, piscium, cuniculorum, ovorum et aliorum victualium infra libertates dicte ville, contra voluntatem dicte Universitatis, tolnetum vel stallagium, seu aliquod aliud genus exaccionis illicite; tunc dicta Universitas eosdem et eorum quemlibet defendet et defendere faciet ejusdem Universitatis sumptibus et expensis. Item, predicta Universitas eosdem et eorum quemlibet defendet seu defendere faciet suis sumptibus, ut premittitur, et expensis, ab omni molestacione et gravamine racione execucionis privilegiorum predictorum in parochia Sancti Thome, et in ceteris suburbiis dicte ville; videlicet arestando et incarcerando et in aliis[5] faciendo pro pace,

[1] The word *dignetur* omitted in MS. [2] *senciant* MS. [3] See Epist. 45. Also the *memorandum* following Epist. 41 and the patent letter next succeeding it. Also the *memorandum* fol. 20 a. [4] At head of this article are written in the MS. in a different and later hand, the words, *decretum, tolnetum stallagium.* [5] *aliisque* MS.

et ut dicta privilegia exigebunt[1]. Item, predicta Universitas predicto domino Cancellario assistet in levando expensas factas circa reparaciones pavimentorum dicte ville, quousque sibi fuerit plenarie satisfactum. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo congregacionis dicte Universitatis die et anno superius expressatis.*

41.

Fol. 12 b.

To the Bishop of Durham.

We cannot complete the new schools, and knowing well your munificence, we confidently ask for assistance in this work for the advancement of learning, the confirmation of the true faith and the salvation of souls. We depute our Chancellor to wait upon you and explain fully our circumstances.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Thome, Dei gracia Dunelmensi episcopo, nostro protectori et domino singulari. 1428.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine prestantissime, quia nuper ex Spiritus clemencia septiformis, piis quorumdam cordibus fuerat celitus inspiratum ut, ad summi Regis honorem augmentumque studii salutaris, scole universales sacre theologie, quibus a primevo caruimus, durabili fabrica levarentur; nos quoque opus hujusmodi parcialiter inchoatum ad optatum finem ex nostris deducere non valemus, vestre dominacioni predevote pro nostri defectus relevacione confidencius duximus supplicandum, quo nostris profundius radicatur in mentibus, quam graciose munifica manus vestra grata solebat egentibus subsidia propinare; per hoc tenentes firmissime, certissimeque sperantes quod nostra supplex peticio, que caritati consonat et universalem studencium profectum respicit, quorum semper extitistis singularis alumpnus, a tam liberali devocione vacua non redibit; presertim cum, inter cetera pietatis opera, putamus illud magis in salutem animarum redundare finaliter, quod ad fulcimentum ortodoxe fidei sciencieque crementum principalius se extendit. Quocirca prelibate dominacioni vestre devota precum libamina effundimus, pia mente unanimiter supplicantes, quatinus ad tam sacri, tam utilis, tamque necessarii operis incrementum liberales palmas vestras extendere dignemini graciose. Et, quia singula nostrum concernencia negocium in hac parte, literali compendio claudere non valemus, nostre cause promocionem Cancellario nostro, magistro Thome Chace,

[1] *exigebant* MS.

devocioni vestre committimus declarandam; cujus relatibus aures favoris et credencie inclinare dignetur tante dominacionis nobilitas predevota; quam ad solamen pauperum et fulcimentum ecclesie in prosperis per diuturna continuet fons et vitale principium omnium creatorum. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo Maii die duodecimo.* Oratores vestri Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

Declaration by Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Oxford[1].

The mayor, aldermen, recorder and other officers of the city, being summoned, appear before the Chancellor in Convocation; and in their presence, and in the presence of master Thos. Bourgchiere, master Thos. Pole, and master William Scrope, sons of nobles, declare that neither they nor any other by their authority have ever, to their knowledge, made illegal exactions from the vendors of provisions.

1428. MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo octavo[2], . . . in plena et solempni convocacione regencium et non-regencium Universitatis Oxoniensis in domo congregacionis, prout moris est, celebrata, vocati Thomas Coventre, Major ville Oxonie, Willelmus Offord, Willelmus Herberfeld, aldermanni, Willelmus ffrankelen, ballivus, Nicholaus[3] Norton recordator, Willelmus Goldesmyth, Hugo Benet et alii burgenses dicte ville coram magistro Thoma Chace sacre theologie professore, Cancellario Universitatis Oxoniensis predicte, et in presencia dicte solempnis convocacionis, ac in presencia nobilium filiorum dominorum, Thome Bourgchiere, et magistri Thome Pole, et Willelmi Scrope, inibi existencium, per predictum Cancellarium sub forma correccionis pie interrogati, ex hoc quod tollenagia, quin verius extorciones a communibus victualariis, sive a vendentibus victualia,—puta ostria, ova, cuniculos, columbellas—extorquendo exigebant, in prejudicium regie Universitatis, in communis fori dispendium, in communitatis studencium iniquum detrimentum, et contra cursum consciencie regularis, dixerunt palam et puplice tunc ibidem quod nec ipsi nec eorum unus, aut aliquis alius per eos seu eorum nomine, talia exigebant nec talia per antea, in quantum eis constabat, per aliquem erant exacta.

[1] See the *Decree of Congregation*, fol. 12 a.
[2] A blank space in the MS.
[3] *Michael* marginal correction, MS.

Public notification of preceding declaration.

Fol. 13 a.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Commissarius reverendi viri magistri Thome Chace sacre theologie professoris, Cancellarii Universitatis Oxoniensis, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, in Eo semper et feliciter vivere qui via veritas est et vita. Cum nuperrime in solempni convocatione regencium et non-regencium predicte Universitatis vocatos Thomam Coventre, Majorem ville Oxoniensis, Willelmum Offord, Willelmum Herberfeld, aldermannos, Willelmum ffrankelen ballivum, Nicholaum[1] Norton, recordatorem, Willelmum Goldesmyth, Hugonem Benet, et alios burgenses ejusdem ville in domo congregacionis Universitatis predicte prefatus Cancellarius ibidem sub correccionis forma pie interrogaret, palam et puplice in presencia dicte solempnis convocacionis regencium et non-regencium, ac in presencia filiorum dominorum Thome Burgchiere, magistri Thome Poole et Willelmi Scrope inibi existencium, ex hoc quod tollenagia, quin verius extorciones, a communibus victualariis sive a vendentibus victualia,—puta ostrea, ova, cuniculos, columbellas,—extorquendo exigebant, in prejudicium regie Universitatis, in communis fori dispendium, in communitatis studencium iniquum detrimentum, et contra cursum consciencie regularis; predicti quidem Major aldermannique burgenses et ceteri dixerunt, palam et puplice tunc ibidem, quod nec ipsi exigebant, nec eorum unus aut aliquis alius per eos, seu eorum nomine, talia exigebat, nec talia pro antea, in quantum eis constabat, per aliquem erant exacta. Quam quidem responsionem dominus Cancellarius fecit in scriptis redigi ad perpetuam rei memoriam, predicte Universitatis notabiliter in registro. Igitur venerabilibus reverenciis[2] vestris, quibus presentes exhibite fuerint, predicta singula unanimiter attestamur communi sub sigillo Universitatis predicte ad fidem et testimonium premissorum. *Datum Oxonie in nostre Congregacionis domo decimo die Octobris anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo nono.* 1429.

Audit of Chancellor's accounts[3].

A commission, appointed to audit the accounts of the Chancellor find that the University is largely in debt to him.

MEMORANDUM, quod ultimo die septembris anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo, facto pleno compoto Magistri Thome 1430.

[1] Michaelem written over the line by a later hand. [2] These words would seem to indicate that this epistle, though in form of a patent letter, was addressed to dignitaries of the Church or superiors of religious houses. [3] This audit of Chancellor's accounts and also the acquittances of guardians of the Gyldeford chest are misplaced in the MS. and belong to the year 1430.

Chace, Cancellarii Universitatis Oxonie, coram magistris Johanne Elys, Reginaldo Martyrderwa, doctoribus, Johanne Martyn, Johanne Perche, Michaele Trefgore, Roberto Pepyr, arcium magistris, auditoribus per dictam universitatem deputatis, de certis accommodatis et expensis factis per ipsum Cancellarium pro dicta Universitate; parcellis examinatis[1], compertum erat quod dicta Universitas debebat prefato Cancellario de quodam alio priori scripto, de dato ultimo die Januarii ultimo predicto, quinquaginta et duas libras undecim solidos et undecim denarios. Item, pro aliis expensis ipsius Cancellarii et aliorum secum existencium citra festum natale Domini, in certis viagiis et expensis magistri Georgii Redclyff, et pro datis attornatis et aliis de consilio Universitatis[2], de claro debebat die confeccionis presencium prefato Cancellario quadraginta et octo libras tredecim solidos et octo denarios et obolum. Item, pro accommodatis citra quartum diem mensis Augusti, ad opus novarum scolarum, sedecim libras. Item, memorandum, quod in partem solucionis premissorum idem magister Thomas Cancellarius recepit de cista quinque clavium sex libras. Item, de gracia doctoris Carmelite [idem Cancellarius recepit][3] quinque libras. In quorum omnium testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum in domo congregacionis Universitatis predicte die et anno supradictis.* Item, memorandum, quod expense nuper facte per eundem Cancellarium pro predicta Universitate in quodam viagio versus partes Normandie non computantur neque allocantur in premissis.

42.

To Cardinal Ursino.

The great favour you have ever shown to this University emboldens us to commend Master Roger Bulkeley to your eminence, and to request your interest for the furthering of his business at Rome.

1429. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino nostro Cardinali Ursino. Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, omnimodas reverencias tante paternitati debitas cum honore. Quia fidedigno ex relatu accepimus, quod vestre nobilitatis grata benignitas nostram Universitatem Oxonie tam sinceri cordis amplexatur in brachiis, ac si ipsam

[1] Here follow (but erased in the MS.) the words *non computatis expensis nuper factis in quodam viagio versus partes Normandie pro ipsa universitate.* [2] The passage erased as above (note 2) here again occurs similarly erased. [3] These words are supplied on the margin by a contemporary hand in the MS.

vestram dignitatem excelsam a vestre juventutis cunabulis scienciarum cum dulcore proprio lactasset ex ubere; in tantum quod pro nostris ampliandis honoribus vestra mens pervigilat, lingua laborat, effectusque operis per signa multimoda manifestat, que vestre intime gratitudinis flamma non cessat indies nostros extendere ad filios, et precipue graduatos; hinc est quod firme confidencie in presenti nobis accrevit audacia, ut dicte Universitatis filium confratremque nostrum, carissimum magistrum Rogerum Bulkeley, quem liberalium arcium insignivit preclara facultas, ac ejus negocia in curia felicius promovenda vestre constantis dominacionis aspectui duximus presentandum, vestri favoris auxilium in hac parte instancius supplicando; in nullo diffidentes quin dicti confratris nostri negocia felicem sorcientur effectum, si tante celsitudinis progeniem nostris precibus humillimis noverimus benigniter inclinatam; quam in ecclesia militante ad sustentacionem fidei ortodoxe Christus feliciter conservet in terris; Qui vos eternaliter premiabit in celis. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo mensis Novembris die vicesimo quarto.* Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

Acquittance of guardians of the Gildford Chest. Fol. 13 b.

Noverint universi per presentes nos, Cancellarium et procuratores cetumque unanimem regencium Universitatis Oxoniensis, recepisse clara raciocinia ciste de Gyldeford de magistro Johanne Arnold, pro toto tempore custodie sue predicte ciste; unde dictum magistrum Johannem ab ulteriori compoto racione predicte custodie absolvimus per presentes sigillo nostro signatas. *Datum in domo nostre congregacionis, sexto die mensis Marcii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum nono.*

Et memorandum, quod eodem die sigillate fuerunt due alie acquietancie in eisdem terminis, mutatis tantum nominibus, videlicet magistro Waltero David et magistro Johanne Chestyrfeld, custodibus ejusdem ciste.

43.

To the Pope. Fol. 14 a.

In behalf of Master Roger Bulkeley.

Sanctissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Martino, divina providencia sacrosancte Romane ac universalis ecclesie summo Pontifici. 1429.

Humillima filiali recomendacione premissa, pedum oscula beatorum; Gloriosus Sponsus, uteri virginalis procedens de thalamo, nuptam sibi ecclesiam constituit in alto, ut potestatis plenitudine universas transcenderet orbis dignitates, sibique mundus obediat et patrem in terris recognoscat[1] ac dominum, qui cunctis constituitur excelsior dux, rex et pastor piissimus sui[2] gregis. Tali namque patri cedit ad gloriam se ad subjectorum devotissima inclinare rogamina filiorum; quia ex sacrosancto evangelice tradicionis eloquio mulierem Cananeam, clamore improbo pro filio obsecrantem, votum recolimus misericorditer impetrasse. Ipsius igitur exemplum[3] Universitas Oxoniensis mater nostra, vestre apostolice sanctitatis ancilla humillima, pro filio suo confratreque nostro carissimo, Rogero Bulkeley, in artibus liberalibus magistro, preclaris virtutum gemmis multipliciter redimito, supplicat indefesse, quatinus pauculas vestre multiformis gracie micas sub mensa vestre uberrime largitatis eo amplius colligere valeat, quo ipsum tam spaciosa terrarum climata laboriosis passibus duxerunt ad pedes: indubie confidentes quod vestram paternitatem sanctissimam precum nostrarum instanciis sibi sentiet multifarie graciosam; quam in sublimi cathedra apostolice dignitatis diu feliciter residere, et post hujus vite curricula inter sanctos eterne beatitudinis antistites faciat collocari Filius Virginis gloriose. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Novembris die vicesimo quarto.* Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

Salary of the superintendent of the building of the new Divinity Schools.

Forty shillings a year, a gown or money equivalent, four shillings a week while living in Oxford, a house, fodder for one horse and travelling expenses.

1429. Universis Christi fidelibus, presentes litteras inspecturis, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis et eadem Universitas salutem: Sciatis nos concessisse magistro Ricardo Wynchecombe, lathomo, unam pensionem quadraginta solidorum sterlingorum annuatim solvendam, ad festa S. Michaelis Archangeli et Pasche, per equales porciones, quamdiu ipse steterit et intenderit ad supervidendum opus novarum scolarum theologie in dicta Universitate; et unam togam de liberata generosorum quolibet anno, vel tredecim solidos et quatuor denarios pro

[1] *recognosat* MS. [2] *sue* ib. [3] Supply *imitata*, there is no ambiguity in the MS.

eadem; ac qualibet septimana, cum presens ad opus ibidem fuerit, quatuor solidos sterlingorum pro stipendio suo. Et dictus magister Ricardus habebit unum mansum competens pro se et suis consortibus, et fenum sufficiens pro uno equo, cum idem Ricardus presens fuerit ad dictum opus, sumptibus dicte Universitatis; et habebit eciam rationabiles expensas, quocies missus fuerit in negociis dicte Universitatis. In cujus rei testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes. *Data Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, quarto die Augusti anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum octavo*[1].

44.

To the King and his Council. Fol. 14 b.

We pray that, as defenders of the church and clergy and of the privileges of this University, you will take measures to secure us in our lawful rights, and especially in that of being sole judges in cases arising within the precinct of the University, with power to imprison persons convicted of violence, &c. We depute our Chancellor to explain our case in person.

Serenissimo Principi Henrico, Dei gracia regi Anglie et Francie et domino Hibernie, regiique consilii dominis illustrissimis, reipublice et devoti sui cleri nobilissimis protectoribus. 1429.

Serenissimo et Christianissimo nostro principi, illustrissimisque dominis de ejus glorioso consilio humillima regie celsitudinis oratrix Oxoniensis Universitas, in prosperis sic negocia regni terreni disponere, ut angelorum consiliis valeant in celo conjungi. Serenissime princeps, jam in vestri inclitissimi progenitoris solio ut justus sedens judex, illustrissimique domini, quos magnifice insignivit divine spiritus sapiencie,—quoniam inter gloriosas reipublice curas, quas perpeti cogitacione, auxiliante Domino, revolvitis[2] corde vestro,—confidenter tenemus quod magnus consilii angelus celsitudines vestras firmissimum posuit pro ecclesia sua murum, inexpugnabiles pro fide turres, pro clero clipeos, et fortissimos defensores. Cum, ad stabile et perpetuum fidei clerique augmentum, Universitas prelibata per graciosa privilegia regie celsitudinis, diversis temporum intersticiis, ad permanentem studencium quietem, nobiliter extitit decorata, ut studentes continuata quiete in fortes ecclesie columpnas regis et regni, suis in dandis consiliis poterint excrevisse; in tantum quod dicte Universitatis Cancellarius convictas pro maleficiis personas possit incarcerare, et si minus

[1] This article seems to be dated wrongly; it should be given to the year 1430. Vide fol. 17 b, where it is repeated. [2] *revvolvitis* MS.

juste, quod absit, incarcerantur, nec eo pretextu debeat illa causa coram aliquo regis justiciario, vel judice qualicumque, trahi ad extra; ne ex versipelli perversorum malicia, per mentamenta ficticia alia quam plurima subdoleque fabricata commenta, in dicte Universitatis et rerum suarum dampnosa dispendia, eadem finaliter compellatur[1] succumbere, et studens inibi clerus a legendo et disputando sub brevi desistere. —Igitur celsitudinem tanti regis tantorumque dominorum suorum circumspectam prudenciam, sagacissime policie laudum titulis clarissime redimitam, spiritu cum prostrato unanimiter compulsamus; supplicantes humiliter et devote, quatinus ad dicte Universitatis privilegia et antiquas ac solitas ejusdem consuetudines, in nostri studii quietem et cleri Anglicani succursum, graciosarum dominacionum vestrarum manus dignemini protectrices apponere; in quibus per regie celsitudinis majestatem a primevo semper et inconcusse actenus fuimus communiti; et precipue quoad illud privilegium, omnino necessarium Universitati, de quibuscunque imprisonamentis ut predicitur[2]; ne ob hujusmodi arrepcionem dicta Universitas ad exterminium et cessacionem finaliter deducatur. Et, ne epistolaris sermo redderetur extensior, nec pretermissi aliquid nostre peticionis videretur[3], nostri negocii causam in hac parte per magistrum Thomam Chace nostrum Cancellarium serenitatibus vestris exponendam commisimus; quem, una cum dicendis ab eo vice nostra, votivis affectibus exoramus in visceribus caritatis acceptare dignemini graciose; ad regie serenitatis honorem felicemque regnorum ejus requiem. In felicitate continua floreat, quesumus, et rex noster et gloriosus ac magnificus cetus vester. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostra congregacionis domo, penultima die Novembris.*

Regie serenitatis et sui gloriosi consilii oratores perpetui Universitas Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

45.

A Public caution against Slander.

The cause of the University was committed to the Chancellor thereof by unanimous vote of convocation; and we hereby declare that we live in peace with our neighbours of the town and pursue our studies without offence to any one.

1429. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Commissarius reverendi viri magistri Thome Chace, sacre

[1] *compellantur* MS. [2] *predicere* ib. [3] *videremur* ib.

theologie professoris, Cancellarii Universitatis Oxoniensis, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, in Dominum nostrum Deum et feliciter vivere, et fidem credulam presentibus adhibere. Ne hesitationis vicium, sinistram per emulorum assercionem, quin verius malivolam per suggestionem, oriatur aliquibus de prosecucione nostre cause, nostre Universitatis privilegia concernentis; unanimi nostre Universitatis ex voto cordiali pariter et assensu, predicto venerabili viro magistro Thome Chace nostro Cancellario commisse; et ne obloquencium perniciosa contagies de tranquilla nostre Universitatis pace opinionis perverse errorem generet in populo; venerabilibus reverenciis vestris, quibus presentes exhibite fuerint, unanimiter attestamur, quod dicto nostro Cancellario prefatam causam nostram prosequendam unanimi consensu et assensu nostre Universitatis commisimus uno corde. Et quantum ad quietam pacis observanciam indubitata fide asserimus, quod, nec inter nos neque ex parte nostra, villanis vicinis nostris aliisve forinsecis ulla pacis infertur violacio, sed tota nostra Universitas pacis pulchritudine suo floret in studio: glorificatus sit pacis Auctor residens in excelsis! In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum commune presentibus duximus apponendum, in fidem et testimonium premissorum. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo sexto die Decembris anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo nono.*

Acquittance of W. Russell.

Fol. 15 a.

Commutation for feast at inception. Ten pounds received.

NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Thomam Chace, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Ricardum Bapthorpe et Johannem Kyng, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, recepisse et habuisse in die confeccionis presencium de fratre Willelmo Russell, ordinis Augustinensium, pre manibus, decem libras sterlingorum, virtute cujusdam gracie sibi concesse de commutacione convivii debiti in die incepcionis sue: De quibus quidem decem libris fatemur nos nomine dicte Universitatis fore solutos, dictumque fratrem Willelmum inde quietum per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, primo die Februarii anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum octavo.* 1429.

Audit of accounts of Dr. Chace.

MEMORANDUM, quod ultimo die mensis Januarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo vicesimo nono, secundum cursum et computacionem ecclesie Anglicane, facto pleno compoto magistri Thome 1429.

Chace, theologie professoris, Cancellarii Universitatis Oxoniensis, coram magistris Willelmo Prentis, Thoma Southam, Reginaldo Martirderwa, doctoribus in theologia, jure canonico et civili; Simone Roo, Willelmo Nithgingall et Willelmo Basset, arcium magistris, auditoribus per dictam Universitatem ad hoc specialiter deputatis; de certis accommodatis et expensis factis per ipsum Cancellarium pro predicta Universitate, compertum erat, parcellis examinatis per dictos auditores, quod ipsa Universitas de claro tenebatur prefato magistro Thome in quinquaginta et duabus libris sterlingorum undecim solidis et undecim denariis. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus apponitur, die et anno Domini supradictis.

Acknowledgement of a debt by Dr. Chace.

1429. Noverint universi per presentes, me, Thomam Chace, clericum, teneri et firmiter obligari Ricardo Babthorpe [et Johanni Kyng[1]] clericis, procuratoribus Universitatis Oxoniensis, in decem libris sterlingorum, solvendis eisdem Ricardo [et Johanni[1]] vel eorum alteri vel eorum attornatis seu deputatis suis, in festo S. Matthei apostoli proxime futuro, ad [quam quidem[1]] solucionem bene et fideliter faciendam . . . . .[2]

46.

Fol. 15 b.

To the Pope[3].

Master Thomas Bromis, a truly learned and virtuous man, a zealous opponent of the Lollards, has been duly elected to be Bishop of Chichester; King, Lords and commons heartily approve the choice. We humbly entreat your holiness to confirm the same.

1429. Sanctissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Martino, divina providencia sacrosancte ac universalis ecclesie summo Pontifici.

Beatissime pater, solita et filiali recommendacione premissa, cum devotissimis terre osculis ante pedes. Ubilibet orbi terrarum militantis ecclesie licet summi pastoris cura singulis se pateat[4] graciosam, illos tamen specialius ad exaudicionis graciam solet, ut condecet, admittere, qui sui et sacrosancte sponse sue ecclesie noscuntur peculiares et fervidi zelatores. Hinc humillima apostolice celsitudinis filia, Universitas Oxoniensis mater nostra, se humiliter exponens pro precaris-

[1] The words inclosed in brackets, obliterated in MS., are supplied from preceding article. [2] This *memorandum* is imperfect, and has been crossed out in the MS. [3] This epistle to the Pope is (as is commonly the case) crossed out in the MS. [4] Should be *praebeat*.

simo filio suo, confratre nostro et maternis uberibus propriis nobilissime lactato, magistro Thoma Bromis, utriusque juris doctore disertissimo, lugubris ecclesie Cicestrensis concanonico[1]—quem concors virtutum caterva multiformiter predicat redimitum, quem affate Cicestrenis ecclesie, ut a fide dignis accepimus, canonice celebrata eleccio, ut inexpugnabilem ecclesie et fidei pugilem contra hereticos versipellesque Lollardos sepissime approbatum, nominavit canonice in pastorem—supplicat humillime et devote, quatinus virum tam magne probitatis et sciencie excellencia preditum, in regendis ecclesie rebus notorie idoneum, aurigamque currus Israel et humilem Bedsaide piscatorem;—quem Ille novit erigi dignum quem non fallit eleccio, 'qui corda scrutatur et renes'; quem eciam non solum peculiaris eligentis populi, sed eciam serenissimi domini nostri regis, procerum et communitatis ejusdem opcio precordialis affectat dicte viduate ecclesie eligi in pastorem—cum dicta eleccione commendatum suscipere et confirmare dignetur apostolica selsitudo: tenentes firmissime, quod cum dictus egregius doctor, sub archipresule Cantuariensi in minoribus agens officiis, contra sevos ecclesie et fidei inimicos nobiliter dimicaverit, si super gregis dominici speculam fuerit constitutus[2], ut luminans in eternum columpna ecclesiam sponsam proteget a ruina; ad universalis ecclesie tranquillum regimen. Precessam[3] sanctitatem vestram in humanis conservet feliciter, cujus vicem geritis, Deus unus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo mensis Februarii die quarto.* Humillima sanctitatis vestre filia et oratrix specialis Universitas Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis regencium in eadem.

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

PATEAT universis per presentes, nos, Magistros Ricardum Babthorp et Johannem Kynge, procuratores Universitatis Oxoniensis, recepisse de religiosis viris Abbate et conventu de Oseney Lincolniensis diocesis, duas marcas pro quadam pensione, de anno regni regis Henrici sexti septimo: De quibus duabus marcis, pro predicta annua pensione, fatemur nos fore solutos, et inde predictos religiosos viros acquietamus per presentes: In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis antedicte est appensum. *Datum in domo nostre congregacionis septimodecimo die Februarii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum Anglie octavo.* 1429.

[1] *ecclesie concannonico* MS.
[2] *consecutus* corrected to *constitutus* in MS.
[3] *praecelsam* probably.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1429. PATEAT universis per presentes, nos, Magistros R. Babthorp et Joh. Kynge, procuratores Universitatis Oxoniensis, recepisse de religiosis viris Abbate et conventu monasterii de[1] Eynsham Lincolniensis diocesis, tres libras octo solidos, pro quadam pensione de anno regni regis Henrici sexti septimo: De quibus tribus libris et octo solidis pro predicta annua pensione fatemur nos fore solutos, et inde predictos religiosos viros acquietamus per presentes: In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis antedicte presentibus est appensum. *Datum in domo nostre congregacionis quintodecimo die Februarii anno regni regis Henrici sexti Octavo.*

Fol. 16 a. Acquittance of Abbot of Abingdon for part of contribution to Theology-School.

1430. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Thomam Chace, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, et procuratores ejusdem recepisse et habuisse die confeccionis presencium, vice et nomine Universitatis predicte, de venerabili patre, domino Radulpho Abbate Abyndoniensi, viginti marcas sterlingorum; in partem solucionis centum librarum nuper concessarum eidem Universitati, ad opus novarum scolarum theologie in eadem, de sancta religione ordinis Benedicti in ultimo suo generali capitulo apud Northamptone celebrato: De quibus quidem viginti marcis, ut predicitur, fatemur nos nomine dicte Universitatis fore solutos per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum in domo nostra capitulari Oxonie ultimo die Aprilis anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum octavo.*

Acquittance of Abbot of S. Alban's for part of contribution to the same purpose.

NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Thomam Chace, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, et procuratores ejusdem recepisse et habuisse in die confeccionis presencium, vice et nomine Universitatis predicte, de venerabili patre Johanne Whethampstede, sacre theologie professore, Abbate monasterii S. Albani, viginti marcas sterlingorum, in partem solucionis centum librarum, nuper concessarum eidem Universitati ad opus novarum scolarum theologie in eadem, de sancta religione nigrorum monachorum ordinis S. Benedicti in ultimo suo

[1] *de* repeated in MS.

generali capitulo apud Northamptone celebrato: De quibus quidem viginti marcis, ut predicitur, fatemur nos, nomine dicte Universitatis, fore solutos per presentes: In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo nostre congregationis, terciodecimo die mensis Maii anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum octavo.*

Another similar acquittance.

Memorandum quod eodem die fuerit alia acquietancia sigillata sub eisdem terminis, solum summa mutata in viginti libras.

47.

To the Duke of Bedford. Fol. 16 b.

History shows that military power needs to be directed by wisdom, and that in those states, wherein the liberal sciences have been fostered, arms have been successful. We feel that your life and conduct are guided by this truth; for, in the multitude of your cares and labours both civil and military, you have by your munificent gifts stimulated the pursuit of learning in this place. We send our Chancellor to explain to you how our privileges are threatened, and to receive instructions as to what you would have us do.

Serenissimo principi duci Bedfordie[1], domino nostro graciosissimo et singularissimo protectori. 1430.

Serenissime princeps, milicie decor, fidei atque cleri validissime defensator; inter cetera per que regnorum et principum eriguntur preconia, ac subditorum consulitur commodis et quieti, illud videtur attenta consideracione precipuum, ut in ipsorum regimine potencia et sapiencia, que de fluvio liberalis[2] sciencie potissime derivantur, sua communicent officia et mutuo se supportent. Nam potestas militaris, nisi fuerit per sapienciam regulata, de facili deviat, et, velut navis sine gubernaculo procellis exposita, cito perit; et visum est communiter, testantibus cronicis, quod, ubi studium scienciarum liberalium plus invaluit, illic floruit eminencius milicia secularis; et, abcedente hujusmodi studio, milicie strenuitas est secuta. Illud firmissime credimus innate sublimitati vestre contemplacionis infixum, istiusque[3] consideracione provida utrobique disponi feliciter actus vestros, quod selebriter orbi fama personuit et quotidiana vestra in opere con-

[1] *Berford* MS. [2] *literalis* ib. [3] *istius quod*, corrected in MS.

testantur. Nam que strenua manus celsitudinis vestre potenter aggreditur vestre temperamento sapiencie equissime moderantur, et que vestre mentis acies circumspecte fienda proposuit vestro vigoris brachio fortiter conducitis in effectum. Hec sane nos oratores vestri continui in nostris propriis veraciter experimur; dum, inter labores immensos regencie vestre et curas milicie secularis, vestra dignabatur nobilitas nos ad fervorem studii, liberalibus scienciis evocatis ad lucem, vestris graciosissimis litteris et allectivis numeris[1] invitare: pro quibus spiritu cum prostrato offerimus gracias, supplicantes intimius[2] ut vobis digna merces a Domino sit in celis. Et, quia putamus commodius illis, quibus in longo respondere jussistis, viva voce satisfacere quam compendio litterali, misimus providum virum, oratorem vestrum, Cancellarium nostrum magistrum Thomam Chace, nostrum specialem nuncium in presenti, qui vestre dominacioni, spe consolacionis habende, quantas per impugnacionem privilegiorum nostrorum angustias patimur, qualis eciam sit status omnium que per nos fieri voluistis, seriatim et lucide declarabit; cui, in dicendis pro parte nostra, favorem et fidem adhibere dignetur graciosa vestra serenitas prelibata; quam Deus, ad regnorum clerique solacium, longevet in prosperis, et post vie miliciam faciat cum superis triumphare. *Datum Oxonie, quarto die Augusti, &c.* Serenitatis vestre oratores humillimi studentes Universitatis Oxoniensis.

48.

To the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

We pray that you will use the power committed to your charge in defending the privileges by which the University, as the vineyard of the Lord, is hedged about, and which our enemies are ever striving to destroy. Our Chancellor will in person explain more fully our circumstances, which can be ill expressed in the short compass of a letter.

1430. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, domino Johanni, Dei gracia episcopo Wellensi et Bathoniensi, protectori nostro et domino singulari.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, affliccionis nostre solacium et spes firma. Fontalis gracie plenitudo, secundum mensuram donacionis Christi, sublimiores patres ecclesie sue tesauro potencie fecundavit, ut ortum dominicum excolentes eorum communiti presidiis liberius valiant eterne legis dispergere semina, et celestes

[1] One would expect *muneribus*, but the abbreviation used does not warrant it.
[2] *intimis* MS.

plantulas ad fructus dirigere spiritales. Et licet fecunda mater nostra Universitas Oxoniensis, velut ager fertilis ad fructus fidei suos late per orbem emiserit palmites speciosos, sepe tamen pessime familiares emuli semper nobis infesti hanc viniam Domini, plurimis et antiquis privilegiis circumseptam, per astutam impugnacionem eorumdem nefarie satagant demoliri. Nos igitur, oratores vestri, nequientes cum progressu pacifico studii tot procellosis adversariorum turbinibus obviare, ad vestrum paternalem subsidium, sub cujus alis respirare putamus, confidenter recurrimus una mente. Et quia dominacionem vestram de singulis que timemus juxta votum nostrum non sufficimus infformare angustia litterali, providum virum magistrum Thomam Chace, Universitatis nostre Cancellarium, ad exponendam intencionem nostram vive vocis oraculo unanimes direximus in presenti, cui credenciam singulis in dicendis et favorem benivolum in nostris promovendis adhibere velit vestra paternitas graciosa; quam ad cultum sui nominis longevet in terris vere vite principium Deus ipse. *Scriptum Oxonie quarto die Augusti, &c.* Vestre paternitatis oratores humillimi studentes Universitatis Oxoniensis.

49.

To the Bishop of Ely.

A similar letter to the preceding was sent to the Bishop of Ely.

Memorandum, quod eodem die quo sigillata fuit littera immediate precedens fuit alia littera sigillata, mittenda domino Philippo episcopo Eliensi, que in omnibus terminis concordabat cum littera immediate precedenti, mutata solum superscripcione, que fuit hec; 'Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, domino Philippo Dei gracia episcopo Eliensi, protectori nostro et domino singulari.'

50.

To the Bishop of Durham. Fol. 17 a.

We thank you from our innermost heart for your generous contribution to the fund for building our new schools of theology. We hope you will continue to be gracious to your humble petitioners and that God will reward you. The bearer hereof, Master Thomas Eland, may be entirely trusted.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, domino Thome Dei gracia episcopo Dunelmensi, nostro graciosissimo protectori. 1430.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, semper nobis promtissime consolator; nuper ex vestre devocionis gracia speciali ad construccionem et fabricam nostrarum scolarum communium, que Dei ad honorem, matris nostre ad decorem, et studencium in eadem omnium commodum se extendunt, de tesauris vestris per manus Cancellarii nostri, magistri Thome Chace, notabilem summam pecunie largissime contulistis. Pro quibus omnibus affectibus vicerosis preconia graciarum unanimi cum consensu referimus, humillime supplicantes quatinus penes matrem nostram solita vestra gracia pro futuris temporibus perseveret; et confratri nostro, filio vestro, magistro Thome Eland, portitori presencium, credenciam in dicendis adhibere velit vestre dominacionis benignitas consueta: quam salvo ducat Altissimus per hujus vite stadium, quo possitis in fine percipere bravium gloriosum. *Scriptum Oxonie quarto die Augusti, &c.*

Vestre paternitatis oratores humillimi Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, &c.

51.

To the Earl of Warwick.

Our enemies continually attack our privileges. The peace and quietness necessary for study, and to secure which those privileges were granted, are so disturbed that learning must perish if we are not succoured.

1430. Magnifico principi Comiti Warwyci, domino nostro singulari et graciosissimo protectori.

Magnifice princeps, milicie decor, fidei atque cleri validissime defensator; inter setera per que regnorum et principum eriguntur preconia ac subditorum consulitur commodis et quieti, illud videtur attenta consideracione precipuum, ut in ipsorum regimine potencia et sapiencia, que de fluvio litteralis scienciae potissime derivantur, sua communicent officia et mutuo se supportent. Nam potestas militaris, nisi fuerit per sapienciam regulata, de facili deviat, et, velut navis sine gubernaculo procellis exposita, cito perit. Et visum est communiter testantibus cronicis, quod ubi studium scienciarum liberalium plus invaluit illuc floruit eminencius milicia secularis, et, abcedente hujusmodi studio, miliciae strenuitas est secuta. Istud firmissime credimus innate sublimitati vestre contemplacionis infixum, istiusque consideracione provida utrobique disponi feliciter actus vestros. Nam que strenua manus celcitudinis vestre potenter aggreditur, equissime

temperamento vestre sapiencie moderantur; et que vestre probata mentis acies circumspecte fienda prospicit vestro vigoris brachio conducitis fortiter in effectum. Sane cum nos oratores vestri continue, ex percelebri vestri fama, noverimus evidenter strenuitatem vestram temperari[1] sciencia, ut e contra scuto vestre potencie defensetur; nosque dicti oratores vestri, constudentes Universitatis Oxoniensis, per impugnacionem privilegiorum nostrorum, que ad augmentum sciencie principum nobilitas statuit atque potenter hucusque defendit, tanta paciamur emulis ac per eorum astucias tam graviter conturbemur, quod propter inquietudinem mencium inter nos verisimiliter deperibit sciencia, si non celerius per oportuna remedia succurratur; ad vestre proteccionis clipeum spe consolacionis habende prostrati confugimus, uno corde humillime deprecantes, quatenus exponenda pro parte nostra nobilitati vestre per honorandum virum magistrum Thomam Chace, Cancellarium nostrum, cordi graciose reponere, et eidem[2] in dicendis favorem et fidem annuere vestra velit nobilitas prelibata; cui post tropheum transiture miliciae coronam Deus glorie tribuat in supernis. *Datum Oxonie quarto die Augusti.* Nobilitatis vestre oratores humillimi studentes Universitatis Oxoniensis.

52.

To the Cardinal Bishop of Winchester. Fol. 17 b.

Knowing that you are ever ready to feel for the afflicted, we implore your aid. We have suffered long and can endure no more. In consequence of the persistent persecution of our enemies the number of our members, once so great, daily dwindles. The University, formerly like a queen among nations, is now as it were subject to tribute, and like a widow bereft of her sons. We see no hope of a remedy except in your all powerful influence.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, domino Henrico, Dei gracia tituli S. Eusebii Cardinali &c., ac episcopo Wyntoniensi, nostro singularissimo protectori. 1430.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, singularis alumpne studii fideique protector; longa satis et plusquam satis attenuacione consumpti diucius sustinere non valemus refugio destituti, si non prenobilis et circumspecta clemencia vestra, que semper consuevit afflictis compati, benigne per oportuna remedia nos supportet. Nam vestre

[1] *temperare* MS. [2] *idem* ib.

dominacionis ancilla Universitas mater nostra, quondam scientifice prolis innumerositate fecunda, jam lacessita nimium ob illatas injurias tendit passu cotidiano, pro dolor, ad occasum; et que prius domina gencium, scienciarum expandens ubera filios in letitia sui vultus lactare solebat, specie privilegiorum suorum obfuscata, per emulos desolata solacio, in tristicia residet, ut lugubris vidua sub tributo. Nec contra premissa discrimina posse nos credimus adipisci medelam, nisi per supereffluentem graciam dominacionis vestre, ad quam velut ultimatum refugium prostrati recurrimus una mente; et quia singula, que precelsi dominacioni vestre expandere cupimus, litterali sub compendio claudere non valemus, honorandum virum magistrum Thomam Chace, Cancellarium nostrum, eidem dominacioni nostrum specialem nuncium ordinavimus in presenti; cui in dicendis pro parte nostra favorem et audienciam credulam adhibere dignetur eadem dominacio prenobilis graciosa: quam utinam, ad tuicionem fidei regnorum et cleri semper Deus felicitet in agendis. *Scriptum Oxonie quarto die Augusti.*

Reverendissime paternitatis vestre oratores humillimi studentes Universitatis Oxoniensis.

Remuneration of the stonemason, Master Richard Wynchecombe.

1430. Universis Christi fidelibus, presentes litteras inspecturis, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis ac eadem Universitas salutem. Sciatis nos concessisse magistro Ricardo Wynchecombe, lathomo, unam pensionem quadraginta solidorum sterlingorum, annuatim solvendorum ad festa S. Michaelis Archangeli et Pasche per equales porciones, quamdiu ipse steterit et intenderit ad supervidendum opus novarum scolarum theologie in dicta Universitate; et unam togam de liberata generosorum quolibet anno, vel tredecim solidos et quatuor denarios pro eadem; ac pro vadiis suis qualibet septimana, cum presens ad opus ibidem fuerit, quatuor solidos: et dictus magister Ricardus habebit unum mansum competens, pro se et suis consortibus, sumptibus dicte Universitatis, et habebit eciam racionabiles expensas quociens missus fuerit in negociis dicte Universitatis. In cujus rei testimonium has nostras litteras fieri fecimus patentes. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quarto die Augusti, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum octavo.*

Payment of debt to Master Thomas Chace, the Chancellor.

The debt to the Chancellor shall be discharged out of the sums paid for graces, as to one half of the said sums, the other half shall be applied to the building of the new theological school.

MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo die mensis Marcii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo, viginti libre levande de gracia domini Johannis Stokes monachi, &c., si contingat ipsum incipere, erant congregacione regencium assignate magistro Thome Chace Cancellario, in partem solucionis debitorum Universitatis. Item, sexto die Julii anno supradicto, ordinavit eadem Universitas in congregacione regencium quod omnes alie pecunie levande de graciis forent dividende in equas porciones, ita videlicet quod una medietas servaretur ad fabricam novarum scolarum, et alia medietas ad solucionem debitorum Universitatis magistro Thome Chace Cancellario, quousque sibi de debitis per Universitatem fuerit plenarie satisfactum. Item, eadem Universitas, vicesimo nono die Julii, anno Domini supradicto, in quadam congregacione regencium et non-regencium, per fidem ordinavit, quod omnia mutua, inter illum diem et festum S. Michaelis sequens fienda pro fabrica novarum scolarum, forent resolvenda de primis pecuniis, non ante specificatis, dicte Universitati post idem festum S. Michaelis qualitercunque proventuris. In quorum omnium testimonium sigillum commune prefate Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo quarto die Augusti anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum octavo, &c.* 1430.

53.

Testimonial letter for Master Michael Tregour. Fol. 18 a.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in Eo qui est fidelium salus eterna. Tociens altissime veritatis conspectui devotum credimus offerre libamen, quociens virtutibus precellenti et sciencia fidele peribemus testimonium digne laudis, illo evangelice tradicionis eloquio informati quod rutila fax lampadis non debeat occultari sub modio, sed pocius super candelabrum erecta in aperto lucescere, ut sit Christicolis in exemplum. Hinc nos super vita et odorifera fama predilecti confratris nostri magistri Michaelis Tregour, arcium magistri, 1430.

quem concors scienciarum chorus mirifice lauriavit, omnes quorum interest cerciorare volentes, per has litteras nostras attestamur, quod predictus magister, post longeva studia in facultate arcium magistratum adeptus, illese opinionis constancia firmatus, regenciam suam finaliter complevit; adeo quod, quamdiu sua presencia cetum nostrum decoraverat, se in apicem honoris pretulerunt gloriose accionis preconia; et, morum gravitate prefulgens matura, Dei amorem et hominum immaculati nominis titulo vendicavit. Unde, ne calumpniancium invidea tante honestatis splendor alicui possit in dubium revocari, eidem magistro super premissis, ut omnibus plenius innotescat, has litteras testimoniales sigillo communi nostre Universitatis predicte fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, tercio die Decembris anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey [1].

1430. Noverint universi per presentes, me, Thomam Chace, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Thomam Graunt et Thomam Gelyfeld, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, recepisse et habuisse die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynesham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sexaginta et octo solidos sterelingorum: De quibus quidem sexaginta et octo solidis fatemur nos nomine dicte Universitatis fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum et eorum successores inde quietos per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo congregacionis, tercio die Februarii anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum nono.*

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1430. Noverint universi per presentes, nos, Thomam Chace, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Thomam Graunt et Thomam Gelyfelde, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, recepisse [et] [2] habuisse die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Oseneya juxta Oxoniam viginti et sex solidos et octo denarios: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis et octo denariis fatemur nos nomine dicte Universitatis fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum et eorum successores inde quietos per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo congregacionis, tercio die Februarii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum nono.*

[1] This and the following acquittances are misplaced in the register under the year 1429.

[2] *et* omitted in MS.

54.

To Humfrey, duke of Gloucester. Fol. 18 b.

We thank you for your great favours. Since you have been our protector your beneficence to us has been such that, though our tongues were silent, your noble generosity would be conspicuous to all men.

SERENISSIMO principi, domino Humfrido duci Glowcestrie, Comiti Pembrochie, &c., et locum tenenti Anglie, graciosissimo nostro domino et singularissimo protectori. 1430.

Eximie celsitudini et dominacioni precelse jugi cum servicio obsequium quam perhumile; ac, pro impensis beneficiis Universitatis vinee, eterne beatitudinis vinea in felici per manus celestis agricole perenniter complantari. O princeps serenissime, et domine metuende, postquam vinea in preclara militantis ecclesie dominacionis vestre prenobilem potestatem, pro vinee tuicione firmissima et secura, summi patrisfamilias erexerat Dei dextera, qualiter vinetum fertilescens alme matris nostre continue proteccionis potencia tanti principis humeris supportabat, etsi lingue palmitum crescencium in eadem sub silencii cespite tacite sepelirent, gesta tamen tanti ducis et opera quam magnifica sub oblivionis gleba hoc nequiunt tumulare. Nec mirum, nam indies hec vinea impinguatur pinguedine, cum donorum impinguata incrassatur[1], tum affluencia munerum, que ex liberalitate[2] maxima dominacionis eximie velut a fonte rivuli effluunt copiose: pro quibus complantati in hac vinea, vestri oratores, preclare celsitudinis innatam bonitatem oculis intellectus limpidius intuentes, pro collatis beneficiis vitibus atque vinee, potestati metuende exennia graciarum unanimiter comportamus manibus pii cordis. Sed, quia quantos volumus non valemus manipulos graciarum, laudis, atque premii afferre tanto principi, summo patrifamilias singuli supplicamus, ut dominacioni precelse eterne felicitatis denarium gloriosum in celesti vinea annuat pro mercede. Et, quia in ortulo scripture brevis nostrorum nequimus conceptuum plantamina radicare, procuratorem nostre vinee dominum Cancellarium nostrum, humilem capellanum et oratorem vestrum, decrevimus destinandum, qui vomere sui verbi singula explanabit que calamus conscribencium non sufficit colonare. Cui credenciam in dicendis dignetur adhibere tante dominacionis potestas metuenda; quam ad regni regimen conservet Altissimus,

[1] *incrassata*, corrected by contemporary hand in MS. The passage is plainly confused, but there is no ambiguity here in the handwriting. [2] *libertate* MS.

presidens in excelsis, rex ille pacificus Christus Jesus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo quintodecimo die Decembris.* Vestre celsitudinis perpetui oratores Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

Acquittance of Abbot of St. Albans.

We have received fifty of the hundred marks promised by the Benedictine chapter at Northampton for the new schools.

1430. Noverint universi per presentes, nos, Thomam Chace, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, et magistros Thomam Graunt et Thomam Eglishfelde, procuratores ejusdem, recepisse et habuisse die confeccionis presencium, per manus reverendi in Christo patris et domini Johannis Abbatis S. Albani, quinquaginta marcas, ad opus novarum scolarum, in partem solucionis centum librarum, quas nuper honorandi patres sancte religionis S. Benedicti, in ultimo suo generali capitulo Northamptonie celebrato, ad dictum opus graciose contulerunt: De quibus quidem quinquaginta marcis fatemur nos, nomine Universitatis prefate, fore solutos. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune predicte Universitatis est appensum. *Datum Oxonie quintodecimo die Decembris anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo.*

55.

Fol. 19 a. **To the Abbot of St. Albans, the Prior of Durham, the Abbot of Pershore, presidents of the Benedictine order in England, and to other prelates, members of the same.**

The labour of your order in the founding of this University would be ever fresh in our remembrance, though your recent benefaction had not given a new life to our gratitude. The members of your order shall have equal right with the secular members of the University to use the new theological school.

1431. Reverendis in Christo patribus Johanni Abbati S. Albani, Priori Dunelmensi, et Willelmo Abbati de Persaora, presidentibus nigrorum monachorum in Anglia, ceterisque prelatis ac membris ipsius ordinis infra regnum Anglie constitutis, sui, Thomas Chace, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, hic ad longevum in Domino feliciter vivere, et per sancte religionis

semitas post scandere felicius ad superna. In recenti servare cogimur, nec valemus nec volumus leviter oblivisci, quam devote clari patres religionis vestre ad hujus, ubi nunc sistimus, more nostre fundamina manu, verbo, speciale suffragium attulerunt: ex quo dignanter hec sancta religio, tracta[1] solum amoris pondere, deduxit in morem Universitatem matrem nostram venustare continue floridis suorum membrorum plantis[2], et eandem cepius grandium frequencia munerum impinguare. Sic, ad ampliandam fidem, veteribus donis cumulando novella, pro levandis generalibus sacre theologie scolis, quibus nostra mater Universitas ab inicio caruit, hiis diebus eadem religio non modicum thesaurum pecunie per vos gratissime propinavit. Pro quibus omnibus intimiores, ad quas sufficimus, gracias offerimus una mente, pro nobis et successoribus nostris; volentes in corde et per hoc scriptum firmiter concedentes quod, cum dicte scole gracioso succursu perfeccionem acceperint, singulis religionis vestre nobiscum in theologia studentibus ad semper erit cum secularibus equalis libertas et par communicacio quoad usum; ut, videlicet, secundum exigenciam meritorum et graduum, legant, tam libere disputent et audiant in eisdem, sicut alii seculares quicunque facient penes dictam Universitatem reputacionis similis sive gradus. In quorum omnium testimonium sigillum nostrum commune presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo septimo die Aprilis anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo primo.*

Acquittance of Master W. Saundre, guardian of the Winton Chest.

NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, cetumque unanimem magistrorum regencium in eadem, recepisse de magistro Willelmo Saundre, nuper custode ciste Wyntonie, clara raciocinia pro toto tempore custodie sue, de omnibus et singulis de quibus racione antedicte custodie predictus magister Willelmus habuit respondere; ipsumque magistrum Willelmum ab omni accione ulteriori, racione predicte custodie, absolvimus et aquietamus per presentes sigillo communi Universitatis nostre consignatas. *Datum in domo nostre congregacionis, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum Anglie nono et mensis Maii die sextodecimo.* 1431.

[1] *tractu* MS. [2] *plantus* ib.

56.

Fol. 19 b. **JESUS.⁝. MARIA.⁝.**[1]

Testimonial letter for Master Philipp Norreys.

1431. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, quibus presentes littere exibite fuerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, salutem et omne bonum in omnium Salvatore. Quia vite et conversacionis honeste odorem suavissimum in nostra Universitate studencium ad Christi fidelium noticiam, et ut in omnibus honorificetur Deus, cupimus, ut debemus, pervenire sub testimonio digne laudis; nos, dilecti confratris nostri magistri Philippi Norreys sacre theologie bachallarii, quem concors virtutum concio redimivit, honeste conversacionis vitam mores et scienciam notorie cognoscentes, omnibus quorum interest innotescimus per presentes, quod suis exigentibus meritis et sciencie preconiis, ad sue laudabilis[2] conversacionis indicium, per nos sibi meruit fidele testimonium perhiberi. Ne igitur, calumpniancium invidia aut hora insidiancium maliciose captata, ejus status posset alicui in dubium revocari, eidem magistro Philippo, super statu suo laudabili et sue vite splendore, has litteras testimoniales sigillo communi nostre Universitatis predicte fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie, in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo die mensis Junii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo primo.*

57.

JESUS.⁝. MARIA.⁝. ANNA, ORATE[1].

To Humfrey, duke of Gloucester.

This our fortress of morals and learning can never fall while defended by your arm. We, her sons, thank you, in behalf of our mother the University, and of her daughters the several faculties therein. Though most anxious to obey all your commands, we cannot carry out the three reforms you desire at this present time, when so many of our members are absent. Before Christmas we will write and relate what steps we have taken to satisfy your desire.

1431. Illustrissime princeps, fortis atleta fidei, studiique protector, serenitatis vestre perlucidas litteras cum omni qua decuit reverencia

[1] The invocation at the head of this and of the following epistle to the Duke of Gloucester seem to show the great anxiety caused by the case of P. Norreys, and by the requests of the Duke.

[2] *laudabile* MS.

suscepimus die Martis; quarum perlectus tenor nos ad internum jubilum consolacionis erexit, dum tanti principis plenitudine graciae perfundi nos vidimus salubriter ad munimen. Nec quidem morum aut scienciarum castra posse credimus de facili ruere, que suffulta brachiis tante potencie secure novimus undique defensari. Nos igitur, vestram celsitudinem advertentes Universitatem matrem nostram inter anxia laborum pondera benigniter intueri, et eandem piam matrem nostram in filiarum suarum, videlicet facultatum, optare sinceriter gloria jocundari, perhumiles oratores vestri, simul cum matre, debemus ad quaslibet graciarum acciones et gaudia surgere, eo quod tanti muniminis brachio sublevamur. Non enim a nostra mente labitur, sed totum in viscera merito se diffundit, quod vestris graciosissimis litteris ad reformacionem trium, que significastis eisdem, nimietate amoris in presenti termino, vestra dignacio voluit nos hortari. Et licet jussionibus dominacionis vestre simus, et semper erimus, obtemperare parati, partim tamen ob quorumdam nostrorum absenciam, partim eciam ob brevitatem signati temporis et gravitatem operis recommissi, non juxta vota modo valuimus mandata vestra sufficienter, ut cupimus, adimplere; sed confisi desuper regnantis influxu, ad laudem sibi complendam vestram, et ad nostros speciales honorem et commodum, quos, velut metimur ex opere, corditer affectatis, ante festum natalis Domini, cöadunatis professoribus omnium facultatum, celerius quo sufficimus hec tria curabimus salutare: et quam cito digestum fuerit quod nobis Deus inspiraverit de premissis, prelibate celsitudini vestre nostri laboris terminum certificabimus scripto nostro. Velit igitur dignacio vestra nos ad tempus sustinere benigne, et offeremus, ducente Domino, que serenitatis vestre desideria placite quietabunt: quam Deus ad cleri solacium longevet in orbe, et post hujus vie miliciam in celestibus annuat triumphare. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congre-* **Fol. 20 a.**
gacionis domo, mensis Julii die sexto.

Ista littera precedens fuit missa duci Glocestrie, cujus superscripcio fuit hec.

Illustrissimo principi, atlete fidei et studii protectori, duci Gloucestrie, locum tenenti Anglie, &c., nostro refugio singulari.

Infrascripcio fuit hec; Vestre serenitatis oratores humillimi Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium Universitatis Oxoniensis.

Debt of the University.

The Chancellor shall be repaid the money spent by him for the University. Pledges belonging to him in any chest shall not be sold without his consent.

Memorandum, quod sexto die mensis Julii, anno Domini millesimo **1431.**

quadringentesimo tricesimo primo, in plena congregacione regencium et non-regencium Universitatis Oxoniensis, eadem Universitas voluit et decrevit, quod magister Thomas Chas, pro tunc Cancellarius ejusdem Universitatis, post compotum et allocacionem habitam et habendam ab auditoribus ejusdem Universitatis, habebit resolucionem omnium sibi debitorum per ipsam Universitatem pro expensis per ipsum factis pro dicta Universitate; et quod eadem Universitas manum apponet, cum opus fuerit, ad levandum debitum predicti magistri T. Chas pro pavimentis et aliis infra precinctum antedicte Universitatis; ac eciam quod cauciones ejusdem magistri Thome jam incistate non debeant exponi vendicioni contra voluntatem ipsius magistri T. Chas, licet fuerint superannuate, quousque sibi de debitis Universitatis fuerit satisfactum. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie, in nostre congregacionis domo, die et anno supradictis.*

John Stephens fined.

Fine paid for failure to incept within the prescribed time.

1431. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Cancellarium ac procuratores Universitatis Oxoniensis, cetumque unanimem magistrorum regencium in eadem, recepisse in die confeccionis presencium de Johanne Stephenus, licenciato in jure civili, quinquaginta solidos bone et legalis monete. Causa, quia non incepit infra annum a tempore sue licenciacionis, secundum exigenciam statutorum. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum commune presentibus est appensum. *Datum in domo nostre congregacionis, nono die Aprilis anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo primo.*

58.

Fol. 20 b. **Littera directa domino Cantuariensi pro cista.**

Your letter, received by the hands of Master Green, expresses such zeal for God and for learning that we account it as sacred: and what you have done for us will enable the youth here planted, so to speak, in the vineyard of the Lord to grow and bear fruit in his church. We send herewith a copy of the statutes for the chests, and humbly entreat a favourable consideration of the statement of our case, which we entrust to your messenger.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri et domino, Henrico Dei gracia Archiepiscopo Cantuariensi, tocius Anglie primati et apostolice sedis legato, domino nostro et graciosissimo protectori[1].

[1] The word *protectori* has been erased, but is faintly discernible.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, quem magnifice laudis protectorem collaudancium preconio filiorum glorificat cetus unanimis, filialia ad continuanda solacia per longeva tempora, piis radiis rutilare. Graciosas vestras epistolas apicesque sacros per dilectum nobis confratrem, vèstrum clericum, magistrum J. Greene humillima service[1] recepimus; quos ideo sacratissimos nuncupamus, quia Domini zelum, studii et cleri augmentum, et quicquid continent, est virtutis. Pro quibus, et continue alias, Universitas mater nostra reverendissime paternitati vestre perpetua oratrix, vivaci contemplans memoria circa eandem vestra preterita, presencia, et futura beneficia, nequiens singula repetere, sed vobis in singulis graciarum pro tributis exponit organa sui cordis. O felix vestrum exordium, felicissimumque progressum, ut ampli orbis de finibus congregata genimina, que vestre Universitatis complantantur in agro, in scienciis frondeant, in virtutibus pululent, floreant et fructificent in ecclesia sancta Dei. Preterea fervidum ad tanti patris zelum, per predictum magistrum vivo relatu nobis ministratum, humillimas inclinamus aures, vestris sanctis desideriis obsecundantes humiliter, ut tenemur. Dominacioni vestre mittimus copias statutorum cistarum per eundem vestrum clericum, humillime obsecrantes et devote, quatinus eidem in dicendis ex parte nostra graciosas aures dignemini prebere credencie paternali solito cum favore. Et reverendissimam paternitatem vestram diutine prospereque conservet in humanis summi Patris splendor et noster Redemptor, quem pudicissima virginum susceperat incarnatum. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo quarto decimo die Octobris.* Humillimi paternitatis vestre oratores et filii Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetus[que][2] unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

Acquittance of Master Thomas Rodnet, guardian of the Vaughan and Husy chest.

PATEAT universis per presentes, quod nos, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, recepimus de magistro Thoma Rodnet, nuper custode ciste Wacchane[3] et Husy, pro toto tempore suo vera et legalia raciocinia de omnibus et singulis, quibus racione custodie dicte ciste fuerat per dictam Universitatem onoratus[4]; videlicet tam de receptis quam de deliberatis et excrescenciis quibuscunque suo tempore contingentibus, ac insufficienciis caucionum, et omnium aliorum: De quibus dictum magistrum racionem 1431.

[1] i.e. *cervice.* [2] *que* omitted in MS. [3] or *Wauhane*, i.e. *Vaughan* MS. [4] i.e. *oneratus*; there is a confusion between *honoratus* and *oneratus* here and in other similar acquittances.

dicte ciste de Wacchane et Husy reddendo absolvimus, exhoneramus et in perpetuum quietum reddimus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis nostre presentibus apposuimus. *Datum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis, quarto die Februarii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo primo, et regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum decimo.*

Fol. 21 a.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1431. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Gilbertum Kymere, Cancellarium alme Universitatis Oxonie, Willelmum Tibard et Willelmum Brandon, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, recepisse et die confeccionis presencium habuisse, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sexaginta et octo solidos sterlingorum, nomine cujusdam pensionis annue nobis et dicte Universitati, pro anno regni regis Henrici sexti nono ultimo preterito, debitos ab eisdem: De quibus quidem sexaginta et octo solidis dictos Abbatem et conventum acquietamus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo congregacionis dicte Universitatis, vicesimo secundo die Februarii anno regni regis Henrici sexti decimo.*

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1431. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Gilbertum Kymere, Cancellarium alme Universitatis Oxoniensis, Willelmum Tibard, et Willelmum Brandon, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, recepisse et die confeccionis presencium habuisse de Abbate et conventu de Oseneye in comitatu Oxoniensi viginti sex solidos et octo denarios sterlingorum, nomine cujusdam annue pensionis nobis et dicte Universitati, pro anno regni regis Henrici sexti nono ultimo jam elapso, debitos ab eisdem: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis et octo denariis dictos Abbatem et conventum acquietamus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo congregacionis dicte Universitatis vicesimo secundo die Februarii anno regni regis Henrici sexti decimo.*

Three acquittances of guardians of the Gildford chest.

1431. PATEAT universis per presentes, quod nos, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, recepimus de magistro Roberto Feder, nuper custode ciste de Gylford, pro toto tempore suo vera et legalia raciocinia de omnibus et singulis,

quibus racione custodie dicte ciste fuerat per dictam Universitatem oneratus, videlicet tam receptis quam deliberatis et excrescenciis quibuscunque ac suo tempore contingentibus, ac insufficienciis caucionum et omnium aliorum: De quibus dictum magistrum[1] racione dicte ciste de Gylford reddendo absolvimus, exoneramus et in perpetuum quietum reddimus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis nostre presentibus apposuimus. *Datum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis, duodecimo die Marcii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo primo, et regis Henrici sexti post conquestum decimo.*

Pateat universis per presentes, nos, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis cetumque unanimem magistrorum regencium in eadem, recepisse et habuisse die confeccionis presencium de magistro Johanne Hute completa et fidelia raciocinia ciste de Gylford, pro toto tempore sue custodie ciste antedicte; et dictum magistrum Johannem ab omni ulteriori raciocinio et quacumque accione racione custodie absolvimus et acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis duodecimo die mensis Marcii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo primo.*

Noverint universi per presentes, nos Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis cetumque unanimem magistrorum regencium in eadem, recepisse die confeccionis presencium de magistro Nicholao Messyngham vera raciocinia, tam de receptis quam deliberatis per eundem pro toto tempore custodie sue antedicte; a qua quidem custodia prefatum Nicholaum quietum reddimus, et ab ulteriori compoto racione predicte custodie absolvimus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis nostre presentibus apposuimus. *Datum in domo nostre congregacionis vicesimo octavo die mensis Maii anno regni regis* [*Henrici*][2] *sexti decimo.*

Two acquittances of guardians of the Queen's chest. Fol. 21 b.

Pateat universis per presentes, quod nos, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, recepimus de magistro Thoma Wyllkok, nuper custode ciste regine, pro toto suo tempore vera et legalia raciocinia de omnibus et singulis quibus racione dicte ciste fuerat per dictam Universitatem oneratus[3], tam de receptis quam de liberatis; necnon de insufficiencia caucionum 1432.

[1] The words *ab ulteriori compoto* are omitted, or else *racione* should be *rationem*. Cf. acquittances on next page. [2] *Henrici* omitted in MS. [3] The same confusion again as to the words *oneratus* and *honoratus*; the latter word here has been first written, then the former, both remaining in the MS.

et omnium aliorum, de quibus dictus magister racione custodie dicte ciste habuit respondere; et eundem magistrum ab ulteriori compoto racione dicte ciste reddendo absolvimus, exoneramus et in perpetuum quietum reddimus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis nostre presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis vicesimo quarto die Junii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo secundo, et regno regis Henrici sexti post conquestum decimo.*

Pateat universis per presentes, quod nos, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, recepimus de magistro Willelmo Collis, nuper custode ciste Regine, pro toto tempore suo vera et legalia raciocinia de omnibus et singulis, quibus racione custodie dicte ciste fuerat per dictam Universitatem oneratus; videlicet tam de receptis quam de liberatis et excrescenciis quibuscunque suo tempore contingentibus, ac insufficiencia caucionum et omnium aliorum. De quibus dictum magistrum racionem dicte ciste Regine reddendo absolvimus, exoneramus et in perpetuum quietum reddimus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis nostre presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis vicesimo die Junii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo secundo, et regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum Anglie decimo.*

59.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The foundation of Chests in the University revives the scholars, who, as vines in the vineyard of the Lord wither from lack of water, while seeking the pearl of great price perish for want of the means of subsistence. We venture to ask your approval of an ordinance for the management of the chest you propose to found, and deeply regret that we are not able to adopt that which you have proposed for our use.

1432. Reverendo in Christo, &c., H. Archiepiscopo Cantuariensi.

Reverendissime in Christo pater gracioseque domine, vestre benignissime paternitati filiali obediencia humillimaque devote premissis. Sane velut, humoris deficiente subsidio, plante aliquantulo marcore arescentes paucissimi roris irrigacione aliquociens eleganter rebotrescendo in habundancia lautissimos edunt fructus; sic revera nonnulli studio litterarum insistentes, qui paucarum gazarum defectu, omisso discipline gignasio, plerumque in viam vergerent perdicionis, pusille tamen substancie mutuo relevati, per sue conversacionis maturitatem

scolasticique laboris assiduitatem, in palmites vinee Domini crescunt litteratissimos. Quorum itaque morum venustate, sciencie claritate, ac redolentis fame suavitate non minus temporalis potestas quam cleri, sublimitas regni, cujus sunt alumpni, quasi quodam sidereo splendore multipliciter decorate existunt. Unde nimirum, inter cetera pietatis opera, ad fructiferum geniminum in ecclesia Dei uberius incrementum, pro inopia scolarium, in agro Domini sciencie margaritam querencium, misericorditer relevanda in Universitatibus cistas errarii[1] mutuandi fundare perpetuas misericordissimum indubie estimatur. Cujusmodi ex caritativa liberalitate erigere larga manu, in nostra Universitate, sua gracia vestra decrevit reverendissima paternitas. Pro cujus nempe desiderabili fundacione, articulos vestri voti in ea parte in quadam cedula vestre destinacionis nobis per nostrum Cancellarium explicatos, vestro intento viciniora quo poteramus, nostris saltem salvis libertatibus, redigimus in statuta. In quibus tamen, consideratis laboribus, quos, in celebracione divinorum officiorum et aliis actibus nostre Universitatis solempnibus, regentes in artibus, ultra alios, Dei subeunt ad honorem, cum aliarum facultatum regentibus, in mutuo recipiendo de vestra cista fienda dignum arbitramur equari: prout utique in accomodato quarumlibet aliarum nostrarum cistarum inconcusse fieri debere, racione jam dicta, specialiter cautum existit. Ipsis vero licenciatis et bachalariis, qui in aliqua facultate suas legendi formas laudabiliter compleverunt, quod hactenus infra nos nunquam ordinatum prefuerat, aliis bachalariis ampliores de vestra cista pecunie summas mutuari benevole, vestra contemplacione, de novo concessimus; ut magis vestra elimosina sic[2] ampliata vobis alias in excellencioris glorie cedat augmentum. Vestre igitur paternitatis graciosam dominacionem unanimes suppliciter exoramus, quatinus ordinacionem pro efficaciori vestri promissi graciosi expedicione propositam[3], quantum nobis attinet, animo vobis intimius complacendi, et nostre intencionis rectitudine, si libeat, editam, benevole acceptare dignetur; propensius considerando, quod formam ordinacionis a vestra paternitate reverendissima, ut prefertur, nobis transmissam, si absque perjurii reatu gravique tumultu, prout affectuose optavimus, quomodolibet fieri potuisset, ex nostrorum cordium integritate unanimi non minus gaudenter quam libenter observandam procul dubio statuissemus. Unde oculos compassionis et misericordie, juxta incepta, super nostram inopiam continuantes, promissum vestrum tam clemens tamque beatum propositum ad profectum sacrosancte matris ecclesie, nostreque Universitatis comodum singulare et vobis in eterne glorie premium

[1] i. e. *aerarii.* [2] *hic* MS. [3] *propositi* ib.

dignemini graciose dirigere, beneficum[1] operis in effectum: quo inde vestre tam pie munificencie caritative[2] scolares participes, ob eorum indigenciarum subvencionem graciosam, pro vobis apud fontem misericordie devoti et perpetui efficiantur oratores. Et vestram reverendissimam paternitatem ad prosperum regimen sue ecclesie diutissime felicitet nostri clemencia Salvatoris. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, quinto die mensis Junii.*

Fol. 22 a.

Graces granted to Masters Thomas Colas, Richard Cawntone, and Richard Andrew.

1432. MEMORANDUM, quod petita erat gracia pro magistro Thoma Colas, Ricardo Cawntone, Ricardo Andrew, sub hac forma. 'Supplicant venerabili congregacioni regencium Magistri Thomas Colas, Ricardus Cawntone et Ricardus Andrew, quatinus vesperie illorum habite in jure canonico possint illis stare pro vesperiis in jure civili.' Ista gracia fuit concessa et ab altero procuratore legittime pronunciata, sub istis condicionibus; quod quilibet illorum disputet gratis bachallariis ejusdem facultatis, et quod quilibet illorum faciet repeticionem solempnem infra annum primum sue regencie, et quod tantum solvant Universitati pro vesperiis quantum solvissent doctoribus si aliquid solvissent; et quod gracia ista registretur infra septimanam post suam concessionem in registro Universitatis et in libris procuratorum.

60.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Convocation.

The Universities abound with men of learning, able to refute the pestilent heresies now prevalent. The council of Basle accordingly invites us to send a deputation to represent our University. We cannot accept this invitation, not having the means to provide our deputation with a creditable outfit and money for the journey. We humbly ask for your assistance, having no other source from which we can hope for aid. We leave the amount to your discretion and wonted liberality, but we are anxious that we should not be less creditably represented than other old Universities, whose equal we are in other respects, if not in wealth.

1432. REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati[3] ac apostolice sedis legato, necnon celebri convocacioni cleri Londoniis jam instanti, nostris dominis protectoribusque graciosis.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, ceteri patres ac proceres reverendi, virique alii egregii et honorabiles. Almis sane, ut remur,

[1] *beneficium* MS. [2] *caritatem* ib. [3] *primato* ib.

studiorum Universitatibus,—in quibus virorum copia habundat litteris et scienciis fulgidorum, ad pestilentissimos errores, sediciones et excessuum enormitates, singulis pene in provinciis desolatorie undiquam subortos, de vinea Domini penitus evellendos,—presertim congruit, debitumque censetur pro viribus et ultimum opis et salubria[1] prebere consilia. Hinc namque sacrosancta sinodus universalis ecclesie, Basilie[2] jam celebrata, nostre Universitati, tanquam cui plurimum incumbit fidei orthodoxe Christianeque saluti consulere, de disertissimis preclarissimisque doctoribus et magistris nostris electissimos oratores, tam pro pestiferarum heresium extirpacione terribiliumque guerrarum tranquillacione quam de privatarum nequiciarum populi correccione, sibi festinanter dirigere nuperrime suis litteris graciosis injunxit; veluti quidem a celeberrimis doctissimisque viris, Rectore doctoribus et magistris preclarissime Universitatis studii Parisiensis, notabiles epistole nobis dudum directe, pro tam benedicti premissi propositi complemento, aliarum Universitatum exemplo, ipsi sacre[3] convencioni nostros oratores, una cum eis continuo ad tribuendam assistenciam benigniter persuadere. Que nimirum sacra mandata sanctaque hortamina, nostro unanimi cetui merito precarissima, quamquam, ut nostrum speciale debitum interniusque affectatum, cum aliis celeberrimis Universitatum studiis pro universali catholice plebis comodo gratissime exsequeremur; inedia tamen, qua premimur, impediente ipsa, nostro salvo honore, quo interius gravi merore concutimur hac vice, debito mancipare effectui non valemus; nisi a vobis, utpote nostris benefactoribus vestri gracia pocioribus, prout hactenus est consuetum casu in consimili, pro expensis nostrorum oratorum, ad nostri cetus statum, licet exiguum, in ipsa celebri et sancta congregacione generali honorifice presentandum, copiosa fiat provisio. Nullorsum igitur in ea parte forinsecus a nobis expectato succursu, ad vestras paternales reverencias graciosasque dominaciones confidentes recurrimus, easdem . . .[4] obnixeque deposcentes integri **Fol. 22 b.** cordis affectu exoratas haberi, quatenus pro tante rei tam beate tam celebris et necessarie expedicione felici, a cunctis Christi desideranda fidelibus, ad nostrorum, quin pocius vestrorum, oratorum in solempne ac sacrum Basiliense concilium honorabilem transitum, aliquantulam monete summam, vestris visam prudentissimis competentem discrecionibus, de vestra consueta magnificaque munificencia in nostre tante oportunitatis instantis peculiare subsidium graciose et liberaliter conferre dignentur; ut nostra Universitas, et sine gazis ceteris veterum studiorum Universitatibus non impar, vestris modo exuberante[5] adjuta

[1] *saluberia* MS. [2] *Basilice* ib. [3] *sacri* ib. [4] A word completely lost in a blot ib. [5] *exuberanti* ib.

muneribus, eciam venusta suorum oratorum presencia, in sui status presentacione venerabili, eisdem inibi cöequetur pariter et honore; quo ex tunc ipsa, vestrarum reverendarum paternitatum magnificis donacionibus in speciali humiliter et devote teneatur perpetuo salvari[1], et constanter itaque in Salvatoris speramus clemencia salvantur omnes sperantes in se, quod tantum opus, tam sacrum, tamque salubre beatissime inchoatum, vestrorum prestantissimorum ambaxiatorum, virtutum et scienciarum dotibus insignitorum; nostrorumque oratorum eisdem dirigendorum consilio, communicata solercia, necnon exactis laboribus pariter et operis debite impendendis; ad nostri regni singulare preconium laudemque perpetuam et quasi immortalem, dirigente Paraclito ad felicem consummacionem salubriter ducetur optatam[2]; dum tamen ibidem gerenda per eos, vestrarum providissimarum paternitatum instruccione sagacissima articulatim maturius predigerantur, quas, ad doctrine ecclesiastice proteccionem regnorumque dissidencium unionem ac tocius plebis Christiane universalem salutem, suis carismatibus desuper irradiet, prospere dirigat et firmiter corroboret Spiritus Sanctus. Cancellarius et Universitas magistrorum studii Oxoniensis vestri humillime oratores.

61.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Of all works of charity that of relieving the necessities of poor scholars is the greatest, enabling them to acquire virtue and science for the confirmation of the true faith. Such are your exhibitions and the chest to be founded here by you. With one accord we thank you, and pray that your charitable offices and designs may be continued to us. Our Chancellor, Master G. Kymer, in whose statements entire confidence may be reposed, will wait upon you.

1432. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati et apostolice sedis legato.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, vestre dominacioni

[1] This passage, and, in particular, the words *salvari* and *salvantur* are not a little puzzling. One would have expected a word meaning 'to pray for'; there is however no difficulty in the MS. Antony Wood in the Latin version of his History and Antiquities prudently gives only the earlier part of this epistle, and many mistakes occur in his version; *etiam quidem* for *veluti quidem*, *de quo interim* for *quo interius*, *contristamur* for *concutimur*, *procuratoribus* for *pocioribus*.

[2] *optatum* ib.

paternali humillima[1] filiali obediencia cum omnimodis reverencia et honore, ut tenemur, devote premissa. Illud sane inter pietatis opera plus meritorium magisque magnificandum putamus, quo alicujus munificencie subsidio pauperum studencium graciose relevatur inopia; ut in Universitatum studiis, ad orthodoxe fidei robur ac perspicuam beatorum morum instruccionem in grege dominico precipue ampliandum, virtutum et scienciarum culmina addiscendo copiose lucrentur. Quo modo revera vestre reverendissime eximium paternitatis zelum ejusque largifluum officium, quos penes nostram Universitatem sua gracia gerit et ostendit indies speciales, ex vestra magnifica et caritativa inopum scolarium exhibicione, cisteque per vos in singulare talium relevamen fundande intencione piissima, in vobis luculencius continue experimur; et eo patencius quo, premissis sacris, sacro et proposito, vestra satagit dominacionis benignitas ut in nostri studii agro plus solito virtutes una et facultates universe abundancius plantate fertiliter radicentur; ac in fragrantem et suavem pullulent, crescant, floreant et fructificent singularis preeminencie venustatem. Unde nos, vestre reverendissime paternitatis et obediencie humiles filii supplicesque oratores, ad genua sancta gracias eidem impendentes, veluti obligamur, unanimiter consurgentes, eandem internius quo valemus dominacionem quesumus exoratam haberi, quatinus in corroboracionem fidei catholice precipuam, peculiareque redolencium morum et scienciarum incrementum, prefata misericordie opera, tam pia, tam utilia, tamque beata, per vestram caritativam liberalitatem nobiscum generosius inchoata, perpetua continuacione dignetur firmiter stabilire. Quo vestro tam benedicto tam felici beneficio, chorusco splendore nostre fame, in exuberancia virtutum et scienciarum per orbem orbiculariter crebrescente, pro eodem reverendissima vestra paternitas, nostrum cunctorumque fidelium oracionibus perenniter merito recommendata, etiam digne et in perpetuum per gloriam vivere intelligatur. In quod quidem negocium, vestre dominacioni non minus meritorium **Fol. 23 a.** quam nobis utile sinceriterque affectatum, concernentibus, et aliis vestre paternali reverencie ex parte nostra per magistrum G. Kymer nostre Universitatis Cancellarium benigniter perorandis, credenciam adhibere dignetur vestra reverendissima paternitas graciosa[2]: quam, ad sue militantis ecclesie prosperitatem pariter et munimen, diutine et feliciter conservet incolumem Jesus Christus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo vicesimo nono die Januarii.* Vestre reverendissime paternitatis et obediencie humiles filii et oratores Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque magistrorum unanimis in eadem.

[1] After *humillima* an abortive word occurs, apparently for *recommendacione* MS.
[2] *gloriosa* corrected to *graciosa* MS.

Acquittance of Eynsham abbey.

1432. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Gilbertum Kymer, Cancellarium alme Universitatis Oxoniensis, Willelmum Brandon et Johannem Hals, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, recepisse, et die confeccionis presencium habuisse de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sexaginta et octo solidos sterlingorum, nomine cujusdam pensionis annue, nobis et dicte Universitati, pro anno regni regis Henrici sexti decimo ultimo preterito, debite ab eisdem: De quibus sexaginta et octo solidis dictos Abbatem et Conventum acquietamus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo congregacionis dicte Universitatis vicesimo die Februarii anno regni regis Henrici sexti decimo*[1].

Acquittance of Oseney abbey.

1432. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Gilbertum Kymer, Cancellarium alme Universitatis Oxoniensis, Willelmum Brandon et Johannem Hals, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, recepisse, et die confeccionis presencium habuisse de Abbate et Conventu de Oseney in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum, nomine cujusdam pensionis annue nobis et dicte Universitati, pro anno regni regis Henrici sexti decimo ultimo preterito, debite ab eisdem: De quibus viginti sex solidis octo denariis dictos Abbatem et conventum acquietamus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo congregacionis dicte Universitatis vicesimo die Februarii anno regni regis Henrici sexti decimo*[1].

62.

To Humfrey duke of Gloucester[2].

Every member of the Benedictine order, being a scholar, pays a fee of six and eightpence to the master whose lectures he attends. If this fee were abolished the recent revival of learning here would receive a mortal blow. And whereas this would be the effect of a certain appeal to the Holy See now supported by an inhibition and citation from the Court of arches, we, knowing how great is your influence with the aforesaid order,

[1] In a late hand a note is added on margin as follows, '*ex errore scribe annus decimus Henrici sexti ponitur pro undecimo ut pateat ex fol.* 21 *a.*' And the same observation applies to the next acquittance. [2] After the number 62 a contemporary hand adds '*prima*' vide '*secundam*' fol. 24 b, and on fol. 24 a (not b) the second epistle numbered 62 occurs, viz to Robert, Bishop of London.

of whose monasteries you are a sort of second founder, earnestly beseech you to use your good offices with the Lord Chancellor in our behalf, that he may stop further proceedings in the cause; and with the presidents of the said order, that they may oblige the members of the same to pay the customary fee in question.

SERENISSIMO principi et inclitissimo domino, Domino Humfrido, duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie et magno camerario Anglie, nostro domino et graciosissimo protectori. **1432.**

Serenissime princeps, magnificeque domine, hinibicione una et citacione inauditis ab officiali curie Cantuariensis 'de arcubus,'—pro quadam injusta tuenda appellacione, in causa mere civili (cujusdam collecte sex solidorum octo denariorum, proprio magistro regenti in artibus nostre Universitatis, pro lectura scienciarum liberalium philosophiarumque, ordinarie a quolibet monacho ordinis S. Benedicti, ibidem in eisdem scolare, annuatim consueta persolvi,) ad sedem apostolicam inique[1] . . . . . studentibus, [et] famulis eorum, nuper directis, ac in venerabilem virum magistrum Gilbertum Kymer, vestrum servitorem perpetuum nostrumque Cancellarium, per quendam mandatarium presumptuosum indebite executis nedum contemptibiliter,—violatur regium dyadema[2] . . . . . Itaque execucioni nostrorum statutorum, ordinariam septem arcium liberalium triumque philosophiarum lecturam concernencium, vestro votivo editorum mandato[3], dampnose plurimum impedita, ipsa lectura, quam vestro beato sacroque jussu ad nostram non modicam utilitatem, tam in doctrina quam disciplina jam tarde expergiscimus, propter subtraccionem collecte, in summa nunc dicta, eadem debite pro lectura, quod absit, de verisimili infra breve desolatorie revertetur in soporem: necnon ad intollerabilem nostrarum libertatum et jurium enervacionem enormemque nostri studii subversionem. De quo nimium trepidamus; aliis inter nos causis eciam consimilibus **Fol. 23 b.** grassari volentibus, continue in posterum conformiter appellandi, hinibendi, vexandique nostram Universitatem exemplum tribuitur perniciosum, nisi vestre celsitudinis magnificencia, ad cujus protecionem nobis indeficientis, velut ad nostrum singularius presidium, inpresenciarum fiducialiter currimus, nostro cetui in dictis injuriis resistendo graciosius suffragetur. Verum quia venerabilem supradictorum religiosorum ordinem tanto peculiarius in alendo virtuosa

[1] The MS. here is, as so often happens, defective. These words are illegible; they look, however, like *interpositum quibuslibet pro trahendo.* The passage may perhaps have been intended to be *ad sedem apostolicam inique interpositis, de trahendis quibuslibet studentibus,* &c. [2] Three more words inexplicable.
[3] *mandatorum* corrected in MS.

et scientifica opera, vestris inchoata preceptis, vestris parere jussibus eximie obligari[1] sencemus; quod vos nempe divino quodam instinctu, in ipsorum et tocius ecclesie dirimendo[2] adversarios, fortissimus fidei facti estis athleta, atque quasi novus cenobiorum suorum fundator: quos nimirum eciam consuetudinibus nostre Universitatis laudabilibus tanto conformiores fore convenit, quanto revera ex nostrorum magistrorum favore eminencioribus supra ceteros scolares gaudent inibi prerogativis. Vestram igitur inclitissimam humillime implorando cordialiter quesumus serenitatem, ut, pro regie corone, nostrarumque constitucionum ordinariam premissarum scienciarum tangencium lecturam, vestra auctoritate editarum, speciali tuicione, Cancellario Anglie continuo affectuose mandare dignetur, quatinus regia prohibicione officiali curie predicte in causa prefata eidem . . .[3], appellata, tanquam ab eodem minime audienda, ut moris in causis civilibus existit, celeriter supersedere precipiat: veluti insuper venerabilibus patribus Abbatibus de S. Albano et Abendon, ordinis memorati presidentibus, Priorique monachorum ejusdem religionis nobiscum studencium vestras litteras, in nostrarum prefatarum injuriarum relevamen, placeat dirigere graciosas; ut suis subditis monachis, arcium scolaribus in nostra Universitate, specialiter dent in mandatum, quatinus in causa prelibata, eorum appellacione et rebellione contra nostram Universitatem suam matrem prorsus omissis, in solvendo collectam &c. statui suo competentem, regentibus facultatis arcium debitam, antique consuetudini Universitatis in ea parte inconcusse hactenus usitate protinus et integraliter se conforment; Universitatem nostram ejusque Cancellarium, prout bonos filios proprios congruit, parentes absque infestacione, in pace de cetero penitus demittendo; ne eorum hujuscemodi adversacione contra Universitatem constituta scienciale[4] vestrarum manuum opus, tam utile quam honorificum nobiscum noviter ortum, absque vestra graciosa ope in hac parte, cito vergat flebiliter in occasum; quod quidem perfecte continuatum, suorum radiorum fulgore undequaque diffuso, vestri nominis ut auctoris, una et nostri cetus ut executoris, fame gloriam per orbem spargeret universum. Unde sub tutissimo vestrarum alarum tegmine noster magistrorum cetus unanimis, graciosum[5] expectans munimen, propter vestram quam excellentem munificenciam indies eis similiter preostensam, cum continuis graciarum accionibus, vestre dominacioni serenissime in cunctis precipiendis perenniter complacere et obsequi est paratus. Quam ad cleri et regni solamen in omnimoda prosperitate

[1] *obligare* MS. [2] *derimendo* ib. [3] A word illegible in ib.
[4] *scientiali* ib. [5] *graciosam* ib.

diutine felicitet Christus Jesus. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo tercio die Februarii.* Vestre serenitatis fervidi oratores Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

62 (2).

To the Bishop of London.

Fol. 24 a.

Thanks for favour shown to Master Richard Chestre, with commendation of his character and learning.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Roberto Dei gracia Londoniensi episcopo. 1432.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, omnimodas reverencias tante paternitati debitas cum honore. Quia ex fidedigne relacionis fama nuper accepimus, per venerabilem confratrem nostrum magistrum Ricardum Chestre sacre theologie professorem, quanta gratuita dominacionis insignia eidem contulit et confert vestra paternitas graciosa; hec vivaci contemplantes memoria ad reddendas cordiales graciarum acciones merito excitamur; dignum namque recensentes, philosophico ex dicto, illud tocius ad integritatem pertinere quod sue parti impenditur ad profectum; nec desistimus, ex fiducia, quam penes nobilem paternitatem vestram jam habemus, eundem confratrem nostrum moribus et scienciis decoratum eidem dominacioni vestre amplius commendare; ut quod graciose dominacionis vestre benevolencia inceptum recognoscimus, ejusdem caritatis intuitu et nostrarum precum adminiculo, continuare feliciter in posterum senciamus. Vestram reverendissimam paternitatem diutine prospereque conservet in humanis futurorum bonorum Pontifex Jesus Christus. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo septimo die mensis Februarii.* Vestri oratores Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

63.

To the Lady Abbess of Syon.

We have heard of the signal marks of favour you have bestowed upon one of our brethren, master Richard Chestre, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, being sensible that where one member is benefited the whole body shares with it.

1432. Reverende domine, Domine Johanne North, Abbatisse de Syon.

Reverenda domina, sancte religionis augmentum in Eo cujus est Illius aspectus, et celesti Sponso continuo complacere. Quia nuper nobis innotuit, ex relacione venerabilis confratris nostri magistri Ricardi Chestre, sacre theologie professoris, quanta graciose benevolencie vestre insignia eidem contulistis; hec vivaci contemplantes memoria ad reddendas interniores nostri[1] cordis graciarum acciones, quas valemus, merito excitamur; dignum namque recensentes philosophico ex dicto tocius ad integritatem illud pertinere quod sue parti impenditur ad profectum; nec nostra desistit fiducia, quam vestram penes reverenciam graciosam habemus, eundem confratrem nostrum laudabilibus meritis et scienciis et moribus[2] omniumque virtutum splendoribus ac bone fame fragrancia redimitum, manibus vestre caritatis incepte benevole amplius commendare: supplicantes devote quatenus quod ex caritatis vestre ardore eidem impensum recognoscimus, nostris intervenientibus precibus ad continuacionem felicem in posterum senciamus. Reverenciam vestram sic dirigat et conservet Dei patris splendor, ut[3] vos vigilantem lampadem inveniat sine fine. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo septimo die mensis Februarii.* Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

64.

Fol. 24 b. **Testimonial letter for Master Richard Chestre.**

1432. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Gilbertus Kymer, medicinarum doctor, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Tociens altissime veritatis conspectui credimus offerre libamen, quociens virtutibus precellenti et sciencia fidele perhibemus testimonium digne laudis. Hinc nos, super vita laudabili et honeste conversacionis fragrancia dilecti confratris nostri magistri Ricardi Chestre, sacre theologie professoris, omnes quorum interest cerciorare volentes, has nostras per litteras attestamur, quod de predicti confratris nostri[4] laudabilibus meritis, per diversarum facultatum gradus et studia, tanta precessit experiencia unde odorifera sui nominis fama, quam apud nos in honoris apicem pretulerunt gloriose accionis preconia, latere non valuit; sed, super eminentem columpnam erigi digna, ceteris se prebuit studentibus vitale imitacionis

[1] *nostre* MS. [2] *redimitum omnium*, &c., but corrected ib. [3] *et* ib. [4] *nostris* ib.

exemplum et populo lucem magnam; adeo quod, quamdiu sua presencia nostrum cetum decoraverat, morum omnium gravitate prefulgens matura, omnium amorem immaculati nominis titulo vendicavit. Ne igitur, calumpniancium[1] invidia aut insidiancium hora maliciose captata, ejus status possit alicui in dubium revocari, eidem magistro super statu suo et conversacione laudabili, ut omnibus plenius innotescat, has litteras testimoniales sigillo nostre Universitatis communi fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo septimo die mensis Februarii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo secundo.*

65.

To the Duke of Bedford.

Wherever the seven liberal arts and the three philosophies are studied renown may be foretold, and special honour to him by whom they have been fostered. The examples of Rome and Greece are a proof of this, wherein, while learning flourished, success in war spread their glory over the world. Already your aid has given an impulse to these studies here, and we humbly beg for a continuance of the same, and particularly for means of regular payment to masters lecturing, provision of necessary books, and schools in which to hold the lectures. Our Chancellor will explain to you our necessities more fully.

SERENISSIMO principi inclitissimoque domino, Domino duci Andegavie et Bedfordie, necnon regenti regni Francie, nostro domino et graciosissimo protectori. 1432.

Serenissime princeps prepotentissime[2]que domine, devotissima vestre celsitudini metuendissime recommendacione, omnimodo quo decet honore, humillime premissa: Redolens et splendidum fructifere doctrine egregiarum septem arcium liberalium triumque philosophiarum augmentum, sedulo earum continuato gignasio in quavis regione contingens, non minimam glorie ejusdem excellenciam presagire solebat futuram; et presertim ipsius cujus auctoritate seu solercia ibidem fulgidam processere primitus in doctrinam. Quam, inquam, dudum Romana potestas, dum premisse[3] sapiencie in suo florebant senatu, totum orbem suo imperio gloriose tenebat subjectum! Quemadmodum utique Illirica regio, dum in propriis pagis, Achademia videlicet et Athenis, philosophorum crevere gignasia, Minerve interventu universe telluri omnique climati sui cinguli[4] militaris spergendo honorem, de suis hostibus victoriosum feliciter continue reportarunt triumphum!

[1] *calumpniencium* MS. [2] *prepontissime* ib. [3] *premisso* ib. [4] *singuli* ib.

In quibus namque, sacro Mercurii et philologie soluto conjugio, non modicus marcor floridi honoris et celebritatis protinus esse traditur consecutus. Conformiter quidem, inclitissime princeps, ex celebri et florigera septem arcium triumque philosophiarum doctrina, nobiscum vestro gracioso et votivo jussu scolatim fructuosum sumente inicium, non minus vestre illustrissime serenitatis et gloriosi regni Anglie amplissimum glorie et laudis fastigium veraciter credimus certissime pronosticari venturum: et eo pocius, si ad scientificam ipsarum sophiarum tam utilem quam honorificam lecturam nobiscum perpetuo continuandam, de competenti stipendio pro laboribus magistrorum ipsas docencium, librisque sufficientibus et ad earum doctrinam necessariis, ac scolis in quibus amodo docentur, mediacione vestre magnifice dominacionis graciosa fiat provisio. Per[1] cujus nempe graciam o quante desideratam sapientiam eloquencie nobiscum celebri freta connubio, sue conversacionis maturitate laborisque assiduitate, preclare doctrine radiis proprios divinitus auditores illustrans, fragranciam morum venustatem et rutilancium scienciarum claritatem, ac odorificam fame suavitatem nostre Universitatis, et gloriosam vestri nominis magnificenciam immortalem undequaque per orbem circumfunderet universum! Qua de re memores promissi in hac parte vestre suavissime pietatis, quod nostrum cetum firme spei nonnullis perfudit gaudiis, vestre precellentissime dominacionis affectuosissime imploramus magnificenciam, quatenus pro vestro opere doctrinali speculacionum premissarum tam mature quam sciencialiter nuperrime, ut prefertur, incepto, nobiscum perhenniter continuando, ex sinu vestre largiflue bonitatis dignetur graciosum impertiri subsidium; necnon celeberrimo viro egregioque doctori, magistro Gilberto Kymer, Universitatis nostre Cancellario, necessitatem nostram in hac parte vestre prevalentissime inclitudini proposituro, nostrarum humillimarum precum instanciis aures efficaciter inclinare vestre magnifice pietatis. Et vestre graciose fundacionis patrocinio dicte liberales artes et philosophie nobiscum perpetuo florentes, propter preclarissimam tanti operis tanteque elemosine indigenciam, nomen vestrum celebre merito reddant in eternum, ac demum[2] celestem, post hanc lucem, vobis lucrentur beatitudinem in excelsis. *Scriptum, &c.* Serenitatis vestre oratores perpetui Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

[1] This passage in the MS. is clearly written, and the whole epistle is in one of the best handwritings in the collection. It is given here precisely as in the original.
[2] or *donum*, *domum* MS.

66.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

Requesting him to speak or write to the Duke of Bedford in support of their prayer, as in the next preceding letter.

SERENISSIMO principi prepotentissimoque domino, Domino duci Gloucestrie, Comiti Pembrochie, et magno Camerario Anglie, nostro domino et graciosissimo protectori. 1432.

Eadem littera, in sentencia et in terminis ut precedens immediate, dirigitur predicto domino duci Gloucestrie cum ista clausula superaddita, scilicet, '*necnon, si vestre graciosissime dominacioni expediens videatur et libeat, inclitissimum principem illustremque dominum, dominum ducem Bedfordie, vestrum germanum prenobilem, dictarum scienciarum incrementum alias sinceriter affectantem, ad felicem ipsarum lecture nobiscum continuacionem in aliquo suffragandum epistola dignemini, seu affatu allectum reddere vel suasum.*' *In quo, &c.* Vestre serenitatis oratores perpetui Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

Ordinance for the Chichele chest. Fol. 25 b.

Henry Chichele Archbishop of Canterbury, desiring to relieve poor scholars, who, while seeking the priceless pearl of knowledge in the field of divine learning, are distracted by the cares of poverty, has given to the University the sum of two hundred marks. This money shall be kept in a chest, which shall be called the Chichele Chest.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Gilbertus Kymer, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, cetusque unanimis Universitatis Oxoniensis magistrorum regencium et non regencium in eadem, salutem in omnium Salvatore: Inter cetera pietatis opera pium esse dinoscitur studencium necessitati consulere, necnon compassionis et misericordie oculos ad eorum relevandas indigencias convertere; ipsis de oportuno subsidio providendo, qui, ut in agro Domini sciencie margaritam adquirant, laboribus et erumpnis variis se exponunt; ut, submotis ab eis inopie a studio distrahentis molestiis, tanto uberius exercitacione scolastica fructus afferant sciencie ac virtutum, quanto abundancius elemosinarum recepcione tempore oportuno de sua inedia fuerint relevati. Hac igitur consideracione motus et divinitus inspiratus, reverendissimus in Christo pater et dominus, dominus Henricus, dictus Chichele, Dei gracia Cantuariensis Archiepiscopus, tocius Anglie primas et apostolice sedis legatus, 1432.

nostreque Universitatis legum doctor, propter benevolenciam graciosam et specialem affeccionem, quas ad magistros et scolares Universitatis nostre gerit, nobis et Universitati predicte donavit et tradidit ducentas marcas, quas ab eodem, sua gracia, nos habuisse et recepisse cognoscimus et fatemur, in cista nova Universitatis integre reponendas; quam cistam, ex ejusdem reverendissimi patris cognomine speciali, cistam 'Chichele,' Anglice 'Chichele Wyche [1],' pro perpetuo nominari, ac dictas ducentas marcas in utilitatem magistrorum et scolarium in Universitate predicta studencium per viam mutui converti volumus [2], sub modum et formam per nos ordinatos et subscriptos.

For the safe custody thereof three guardians shall be elected every year, who shall be empowered to lend from this fund on receiving sufficient pledges; and they shall be bound by oath to observe this ordinance. At the end of their term of office they shall render an account of the state of the fund; principal, interest and pledges. They may appoint deputies under proper restrictions. The University, for the corporate use, may borrow therefrom one hundred shillings; and any College, except the College of S. Mary of Winchester, five marks. A Master of Arts, actually engaged in study in Oxford, may borrow forty shillings, a licentiate two and a half marks, a bachelor two marks, a scholar one mark. A second loan may not be contracted until the first has been repaid. No loan shall be granted unless a pledge, exceeding in value the sum to be borrowed, be first deposited; and such pledge, if not redeemed within a year and a month, may be sold to satisfy the debt. Pledges must be bona fide the property of the person depositing the same. The guardians shall visit the chest every month after due proclamation. Pledges offered for sale shall only be lent on approval under careful restrictions and upon sufficient security.

Nos igitur, Cancellarius antedictus cetusque unanimis magistrorum Universitatis predicte, pro secura custodia dicte ciste et summe pecunie prefate reposite in eadem, ordinamus et volumus, quod, de fidelioribus et discrecioribus magistris arcium duo regentes et unus non-regens in ejus eligantur custodes, singulis annis, in vigilia concepcionis Beate Virginis, qui plenam habeant potestatem magistris et scolaribus nostre Universitatis et communitatibus de vera sorte ciste, seu ejus excrescenciis, pro sufficientibus caucionibus, in forma subtaxata mutuare; ita quod, post eleccionem eorum ad custodiam dicte ciste, quam cito

[1] This is probably a mistake for '*hutch*.' The chests were called '*hutches*.'
[2] *volimus* MS.

commode fieri poterit, in aliqua congregacione Universitatis nostre, antequam ad ipsam custodiam admittantur, sacramentum prestent corporale, quod singulas ordinaciones huic ciste pertinentes absque dolo vel fraude bene et fideliter observabunt; ac ipsam pro tempore sue custodie indempnem custodient, saltem quantum ad se pertinent et in ipsis est; sic quod nullus eorum ultra unum annum et mensem in custodia predicte ciste quoquo modo continuet, sed illi ipsam aliis custodibus, sic ut prefertur electis, in prima congregacione magistrorum post natale Domini facta, omnino deliberent; in qua, ante suam deliberacionem hujusmodi, de sua administracione coram auditoribus, ad hoc[1] per procuratores dicte Universitatis deputatos, de vera sorte ciste ejusque excrescenciis, si que fuerint, et singulis caucionibus ejusdem, necnon de aliis quibuscunque dicte ciste pertinentibus fidelem et plenam teneantur reddere racionem: quo modo eciam, si quis substitutus fuerit alicujus custodis dicte ciste absentis, tempore raciociniorum ejusdem, nomine custodis cujus vices gerit, una cum reliquis custodibus, vel, in eorum absencia, eorum substitutis, tanquam procurator principalis in hac parte custodis, ad raciocinia reddenda compellatur[2]: proviso, quod nullus custodum dicte ciste administracionem ejusdem vice sua alicui committat, nisi magistro vel bachilario Universitatis jurato, predictum juramentum tempore substitucionis sue consimiliter subeunti: sic eciam quod, lapso anno et mense custodie dicte ciste, custodibus prioribus de sorte ciste vel ejus excrescenciis non liceat cuiquam mutuare; nec datas impignoracionis cujuscunque pignoris immutare, neque quamque caucionem renovari permittere quoquo modo: liceat tamen eis excrescencias solvere hiis, quibus debentur, et pecuniam debitam ciste exigere et recipere ac pignora liberare; hoc addito, quod Universitas ad communem usum mutuo de dicta cista recipiat centum solidos pro una vice, et quodlibet collegium quinque marcas. Item, quilibet magister regens vel non-regens, studens in Universitate, de eadem mutuare poterit, ad usum suum proprium et non alterius, quadraginta solidos et non plus pro una vice. Item, quilibet licenciatus in aliqua facultate mutuari potest, ad usum suum proprium et non ad alterius, solum duas marcas et dimidium pro una vice; et bachalarius, qui in aliqua facultate formam legendi complevit, mutuari potest, ad suum usum et non alterius, solum duas marcas pro una vice; necnon quilibet bachilarius alius viginti solidos; et quilibet scolaris unam marcam, et non ultra quovis quesito colore, per se vel per alium, pro una vice mutuari possunt cista de predicta: nec quivis predictorum mutuancium iterum de eadem per se vel per alium quicquid mutuo recipere debet, donec de

[1] *hoc* supplied on margin by later hand. [2] *compellantur* MS.

priore mutuo plene fuerit satisfactum; et ex tunc, post medietatem anni, tantumdem de eadem cista mutuo recipere potest, et deinceps, absque fraude et malo ingenio, quum opus habet; hoc diligencius observato, quod nulli communitati vel persone, nisi alicui predictorum, prestetur mutuum de sorte predicte ciste vel ejus excrescenciis quoquo modo, nec eciam alicui ipsarum, nisi sub reali et sufficienti pignore, pecuniam sic mutuandam in valore notabili excedente; quod quidem pignus, nisi infra mensem post suam superannuacionem, si plenus terminus fuerit, vel infra primum mensem proximi termini, si vacacio fuerit, debite luatur, statim proclamacione publica precedente, vendicioni publice exponatur; ita quod, cum pignus venditum fuerit, retenta ciste summa proprii mutui, residuum precii, si quod fuerit, impignoranti
Fol. 26 a. solvatur[1]. Item, quod quicunque exponentes pignora, sive pro pecunia dicte ciste, sive pro aliis pignoribus vendicioni expositis, et ad inspeccionem seu examinacionem receptis, jurent se potestatem habere taliter obligandi hujusmodi pignora que exponunt. Item, quod quolibet mense pleni termini teneantur custodes dictam cistam visitare, proclamacione more solito per scolas publice precedente. Item, quod nullum pignus de cista predicta vendicioni expositum, sive de voluntate impignorantis infra annum, sive per custodes ciste post annum, cuiquam ad examinacionem vel inspeccionem tradatur, nisi corporale prestiterit juramentum, quod pignus hujusmodi non accipit fraudulenter ad implendum[2] vel differendum vendicionem illius; et ad juramenta hujusmodi exigenda quilibet librarius vel stacionarius Universitatis astringatur. Item, quod qui pignus vendicioni expositum ad inspeccionem vel examinacionem habere voluerit, aliud pignus, notabiliter excedens precium pignoris venalis, secundum estimacionem stacionarii seu librarii venditoris, eidem exponat, et sic pignus venale ad examinacionem per octo dies licenter habeat; quod si infra octo dies dictum precium constitutum super pignore venali eidem stacionario non solverit, nec ipsum pignus venale eidem restituerit, extunc pignus ejus sic stacionario expositum remaneat ciste in statu prioris pignoris obligatum; ita videlicet quod, per custodes ciste precio constituto vendicioni exponatur, sicut de pignoribus superannuatis fieri consuevit: quo vendito, reservetur summa mutui principalis, et, si quid residuum fuerit, assignetur ei, qui primo pignus exposuit, solum tantum quantum precium super ejus pignore constitutum excedit summam mutui principalis; et, si adhuc preter hoc aliquid superfuerit, illud ei, qui pignus posterius stacionario tradidit, assignetur; et sic fiat singulis impignorantibus quod justum est.

[1] *solvantur* MS. [2] Probably an error for *impediendum*.

In the chest a register shall be kept of names and other particulars, which register shall be examined every year, and afterwards cancelled, but not rendered illegible.

The auditors who examine the accounts of the outgoing guardians shall deliver an indenture of the same to the proctors.

All statutes relating to chests in general shall hold good as respects the Chichele Chest, and misuse or embezzlement of the funds shall involve excommunication.

Item, quod in prefata cista sit registrum, in quo annis singulis, instante compoto, per custodes compotum reddituros scribantur singillatim nomina illorum, quibus debebuntur excrescencie de pignoribus venditis anno illo, videlicet post ultimum compotum precedentem, una cum summis excrescenciarum debitarum singulis eorumdem; que scriptura per auditores compoti examinetur, ut concordet cum summa novarum excrescenciarum inserenda indenture super illum compotum faciende; ne quis, cujus pignus, ultra summam mutui per ipsum de cista accepti, venditum forsan fuerit, per custodum ciste injuriam seu negligenciam, debitis sibi excrescenciis defraudetur. Cum excrescencie sic in registro descripte illi cui debebuntur fuerint persolute, scriptura ipsas[1] concernens cancelletur in prefato[2] registro, ita tamen ut videri possit quod fuerat ibi scriptum; cancellate vero hujusmodi scripture per auditores proximi compoti sequentis examinentur[3], ut concordent cum summa excrescenciarum, quas custodes coram eis allegabunt de temporibus suam administracionem precedentibus, ut liquere possit sic se solvisse, ne forte in posterum eedem excrescencie indebite persolvantur. Item, quod auditores compoti custodum priorum dicte ciste exquisite ipsum audient, ac indenturam summam sortis[4] ciste continentem, una cum excrescenciis et caucionibus ejusdem ciste quibuscunque, post hujusmodi compotum receptum statim procuratoribus Universitatis deliberent, in eorum cistam reponendam; cujus indenture alia pars remaneat in predicta cista, per quam custodes novi in suo compoto futuro valeant onerari. Item, quod omnia statuta et consuetudines laudabiles conservacionem cistarum concernencia, per Cancellarium et Universitatem nostram facta vel in posterum facienda, dummodo presenti ordinacioni nullatenus repugnent, circa custodiam predicte ciste per presentes ordinamus et volumus observari.

As a recompense for his charity, the founder of the chest shall be reckoned among the benefactors of the University; and every year, when the priest goes round all the schools to ask the prayers of the scholars for

[1] *ipsos* MS. [2] *prefata* ib. [3] *examinetur* ib. [4] *sorte* ib.

all benefactors, his name shall be specially mentioned. Every year also mass 'de Trinitate' shall be said for him; and after his death, on the anniversary of that event if possible, mass 'de defunctis' shall be said for him for ever. Likewise every one who borrows from the said chest shall be bound to say five times the 'Pater noster' and 'Ave Maria,' for the souls of the founder and all the faithful departed; and, if a priest, he shall be bound to celebrate mass 'de requiem' for the said souls. This ordinance shall be a statute of the University, and be entered in the books of the Chancellor and proctors.

Nos igitur, Cancellarius predictus cetusque unanimis magistrorum Universitatis premisse, predictam pecuniam nullatenus alienandam, sed in prefatos pios usus, et non in alios quoquo modo convertendam, diffinitive et finaliter pronunciamus; omnes et singulos primo et secundo et tercio monendo, sub pena excommunicacionis majoris, quam ferimus in hiis scriptis in omnes contravenientes, ne de dicta pecunia quicquid maliciose et fraudulenter auferre, diminuere, vel in alios usus vertere quam premissos aliquis aliquo modo presumat aliquive presumant. Insuper, attenta consideracione diligencius advertentes devocionis nobilitatem, ac caritativam liberalitatem a prefato reverendissimo in Christo patre nobis graciose monstratas, suamque munificenciam cum graciarum accionibus merito amplectentes, sibi spiritualium munerum retribucionem rependere cupiendo, prefatum reverendum patrem inter benefactores nostre Universitatis admittimus, concedentes eidem quod sit particeps omnium bonorum, que pro benefactoribus dicte Universitatis fient in perpetuum; et quod nomen ejus nominibus benefactorum nostrorum perpetuo ascribatur; quodque annis singulis, sacerdote circuiente scolas singulas magistrorum ad orandum pro benefactoribus Universitatis, nomen prefati reverendissimi patris, tam in vita quam post obitum ipsius, inter ceteros benefactores specialiter recitetur: singulis insuper annis, dum vixerit, convenienciore die per Cancellarium et procuratores ad hoc assignata, a regentibus Universitatis missa pro eo '*de Trinitate*' decantetur; ita quod, post mortem dicti reverendissimi patris, die quo de hac luce migraverit, si comode fieri poterit, seu alio viciniore sequente, saltem non legibili, missa '*de defunctis*' cum exequiis mortuorum precedentibus a nobis et
Fol. 26 b. successoribus nostris pro eodem reverendissimo patre cum diacono et sub-diacono fiet in perpetuum celebris et solempnis; magistris regentibus ad hoc more solito convocandis, quorum quilibet hujusmodi misse a principio evangelii usque ad ultimum '*Agnus Dei*,' in fide prestita Universitati, interesse teneatur; ita quod quilibet, mutuum secundum formam predictam recipiens de dicta cista, statim bona fide

promittat quod, pro bono statu dicti reverendissimi patris, dum vivit, aut pro anima ejus post mortem et animabus omnium benefactorum ejusdem ciste, et omnium fidelium defunctorum, quinquies oracionem dominicam, tociensque salutacionem Beate Marie Virginis devote dicet; ac, si non presbiter sit, quod infra octo dies a tempore hujusmodi mutui recepti exequias[1] cum novem leccionibus dicet defunctorum: quodque, si presbiter sit, celebrabit infra idem tempus '*de requiem*' unam missam pro animabus omnium predictorum. Volumusque et ordinamus, quod omnia et singula predicta pro statutis de cetero inviolabiliter observentur in perpetuum, et in libris Cancellarii et procuratorum cum statutis aliis inserantur perpetuo duratura; que ad perpetuam rei memoriam volumus et concedimus coram nobis sentencialiter recitari, cum statuta nostra adjurata legi contigerit, ut est moris. Acta et statuta sunt hec in congregacione solempni regencium et non-regencium, in ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis Oxonie solempniter celebrata, ex unanimi consensu non-regencium et omnium facultatum, existentibus procuratoribus venerabilibus viris magistris Willelmo Brandone et Johanne Hals, vicesimo quarto die mensis Mayi, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo secundo. Ad premissa autem omnia et singula fideliter et sine fraude perpetuo facienda et inviolabiliter observanda, nos, Cancellarius et magistri predicti per presentes obligamus nos et successores nostros, et ea omnia facere et observare promittimus bona fide: et ut prefate nostre concessiones et ordinaciones robur obtineant perpetue firmitatis, presentes litteras nostras patentes fieri fecimus, sigilli Universitatis nostre communis appensione munitas, in fidem et testimonium omnium premissorum. *Datum in domo nostre congregacionis anno predicto mensis Junii die quinta.*

67.

Testimonial letter for Master William Carelake.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Tociens altissime veritatis conspectui credimus offerre libamen, quociens virtutibus precellenti et[2] sciencia fidele perhibemus testimonium digne laudis: Hinc nos super laudabili vita et honeste conversacionis fragrancia dilecti confratris nostri Willelmi Carelake, arcium magistri, omnes quorum interest cerciorare volentes, has nostras per litteras attestamur, quod de predicti confratris nostri laudabilibus meritis per 1433.

[1] *exequies* MS. [2] *ex* ib.

septem liberalium arcium studia tanta precessit experiencia, unde odorifera sui nominis fama, quam apud nos in honoris apicem protulerunt gloriose accionis preconia, latere non valuit; sed super eminentem columpnam erigi digna, ceteris se prebuit studentibus vitale imitacionis exemplum et populo lucem magnam; adeo quod, quamdiu sui presencia cetum nostrum decoraverat, omnium morum gravitate prefulgens matura, amorem omnium immaculati nominis titulo vendicavit. Ne igitur, calumpniancium invidia aut insidiancium hora maliciose captata, ejus status possit alicui in dubium revocari, eidem magistro super statu suo laudabili, ut omnibus plenius innotescat, has litteras testimoniales sigillo nostre Universitatis communi fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostra congregacionis domo, vicesimo septimo die Aprilis anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo tercio.*

68[1].

To the Pope.

Congratulatory on his efforts to suppress heresy and schism, and assuring him of the cordial obedience and cooperation of the University.

Sanctissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Eugenio, Romane ac universalis ecclesie summo pontifici.

Sanctissime pater, perhumillima, usque ad sanctitatis vestre[2] pedum oscula beatorum, recommendacione premissa: Ex tenore litterarum ejusdem sanctitatis, quas cum humilitate debita pariter et devota vicesimo primo die mensis Aprilis recepimus, pium cognovimus desiderium quod habere deproperat ad gregem sibi creditum a Domino Jesu omnium Salvatore; presertim circa unitatis ecclesie preservacionem, heresium[3] extirpacionem ac dissidencium pacificacionem; pro quibus omnibus Deum humillime petimus, quatenus ex alto ad ea votive dignetur respicere, usque ad exaudicionis effectum sua ineffabili pietate; ut sic ecclesia catholica colla contra eam volentes erigere in virtute Altissimi vehementer comprimere, et superbas eorum cervices jugo rectitudinis valeat incurvare. O felix hora coronandaque intencio, quibus divina clemencia supremum ecclesie speculatorem super gregem suum sic ammonuit vigilare, ne Petri navicula scismatice tempestatis fluctibus ac Christianorum discordia invalescente funditus deperiret! Ymmo in non modicum solamen Christi ecclesie militantis late jam per orbem extirpare desudat tante sanctitatis industria, nedum horrenda genimina heresium[3] et errorum, verum eciam Christianorum scissuram

[1] This epistle is crossed out in the MS.
[2] *vestre* repeated in MS.
[3] *heresum* MS.

—quorum deflenda divisione humani sanguinis indies provocatur diluvium, et Christiana religio plus solito refrigescit—ad Spiritus unitatem in pacis vinculo studiose nititur invitare. Certissime speramus quod ecclesie membra, vario scismatice[1] pestis, proch dolor, infirmata contagio, vestre sub sanctitatis presidio diffuse in orbis finibus preoptatum sanitatis recipient incrementum; ecclesiaque liberabitur ab hostibus, purgabitur a spurciciis, solidabitur in fide, et finaliter vestro sanctissimo regimini per obediencie vinculum corda subdentur tocius populi Christiani. Et nos pro viribus nostris, apostolicis votis obedientes, humillime offerimus nos semper paratos exsequi quecunque fuerint vestre beneplacita sanctitati; quam conservare dignetur Altissimus sue tranquillo regimini ecclesie sacrosancte. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo tercio die mensis Aprilis.* Sanctitatis vestre humillimi[2] oratores Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium vestre Universitatis Oxonie.

69.

To the Abbot of Gloucester. Fol. 27 a.

Commends to his favour Master William Brandon, lately proctor.

Reverendo in Christo patri, Domino Roberto, Dei gracia Abbati Gloucestriensi. 1433.

Reverende in Christo pater et domine, internas reverencias tanto patri debitas cum honore, et de vestri paternalis favoris oliva gratuita nostri studii fructus continue parturire[3]. Tenere vos credimus quod, ex justicie debito, hii debeant in percipiendis premiorum manipulis ceteros anteire, qui sciencie et virtutis rutila preheminent honestate: Ea propter paternitati vestre, quam cincera dileccione prosequimur, carissimum confratrem nostrum magistrum Willelmum Brandon, arcium magistrum, nuper nostre Universitatis procuratorem, virum quippe laudabilibus scienciarum et vite meritis, conversacionis fragrancia aliisque virtutibus multifarie insignitum, in spiritualibus et temporalibus circumspectum, cujus periciam et discrecionem per operis exercicium indies experimur, specialius quo valemus commendantes; vos attente deprecamur, quatinus ad eundem confratrem nostrum paternitatis vestre affectus inflammetur, favoris et specialis benevolencie radios convertens ad sue exaltacionis commodum; ut eo plenius eidem vestre paternitati ad graciarum internius teneamur acciones, quo ipsum graciosius de vestri pectoris armario noverimus exaltatum; ex dicto recensentes philosophico illud pertinere tocius ad integritatem quod uni sue

[1] *scismatie* MS. [2] *humillime* ib. [3] *parturiri* ib.

parti impenditur ad profectum. Paternitatem vestram inter sanctos[1] collocari antistites infinita felicitate plenus[2] tribuat ipse Deus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Maii die quarto.* Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

70.

Fol. 27 b. **Testimonial letters for Master John Treguran, and several others.**

1433. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Tociens altissime veritatis conspectui credimus offerre libamen, quociens virtutibus precellenti et sciencia fidele perhibemus testimonium digne laudis: Hinc nos, super laudabili vita et honeste conversacionis fragrancia dilecti confratris nostri magistri Johannis Treguran, arcium magistri, omnes quorum interest cerciorare volentes, has nostras per litteras attestamur, quod de predicti confratris nostri laudabilibus meritis, per septem liberalium arcium studia, tanta precessit experiencia, unde odorifera sui nominis fama, quam apud nos in honoris apicem pretulerunt gloriose accionis preconia, latere non valuit, sed super eminentem columpnam erigi[3] digna ceteris se prebuit studentibus vitale imitacionis exemplum et populo lucem magnam; adeo quod, quamdiu sua presencia cetum nostrum decoraverat, omnium morum gravitate prefulgens matura, amorem omnium immaculati nominis titulo vendicavit. Ne igitur, calumpniancium invidia aut insidiancium hora maliciose captata, ejus status possit alicui in dubium revocari, eidem magistro, super statu suo laudabili, ut omnibus plenius innotescat, has litteras testimoniales sigillo nostre Universitatis communi fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, ultimo die mensis Junii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo tercio.*

Consimiles littere erant sigillate pro magistris Morgano Wynter et Petro Provost; et alia pro magistro Vincencio Clement, sub dato penultimi diei predicti mensis Junii. Consimiles etiam littere pro magistris Willelmo Dowson et Benedicto Burgh, sub dato tercii diei mensis Julii.

Item, consimiles litterae erant sigillate pro doctoribus Thoma Colas utriusque juris doctore et arcium magistro, Roberto Grenewode et

[1] *santos* MS. [2] *plenius* MS.: cf. Epp. 87 and 93. [3] *eregi* ib.

Ricardo Caunton legum doctoribus, sub dato secundi diei mensis Julii anno Domini supradicto, millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo tercio [1].

Item, consimilis littera erat sigillata pro magistro Johanne Croxby, magistro arcium, et baccalario sacre theologie, sub dato decimi noni diei mensis Julii anno Domini supradicto.

Item, consimilis littera fuit sigillata pro magistro Thoma Luddelowe, sacre theologie professore, sub dato [2] vicesimo septimo die Augusti anno Domini supradicto.

Item, consimilis littera erat sigillata pro magistro Johanne Pygg, magistro arcium, sub dato decimi noni diei mensis Octobris anno supra dicto.

71.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury. Fol. 28 a.

We know your care for us, and how you desire that our fertile soil may produce fruitful olive trees, to multiply the oil of Catholic doctrine. We are deeply grateful, and make bold to commend to your favour Master T. Colas, hoping that our intercession may be of service to him in the business he has in hand.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia Archiepiscopo Cantuariensi, tocius Anglie primati, et apostolice sedis legato, domino nostro graciosissimo. 1433.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, quem magnifice laudis protectorem perpetuum collaudancium humilium preconio sue obediencie filiorum cetus glorificat unanimis, diutine ad ecclesie et sui cleri solamina vivere in humanis. Immense leticie jubilo dies gaudii solempnizat mater nostra Oxoniensis Universitas, vestre consolacionis [3] ex uberibus graciose refecta; eo quod vestre sanctissime paternitatis pietas sue gracie ymbres continue distillare non cessat, ad Dei nostrique studii incrementum pariter et honorem. Scimus etenim, manifeste operacionis lumine, quod fecunda vestra devocio vigilanti ex animo desiderat ut nostre Universitatis fertili de campo germinantes oriantur olive, crescant, floreant, fructificent et sancte conversacionis diffundant odorem, oleumque catholice doctrine multiplicent in ecclesia Dei sancta. In nostre igitur mentis registrata firmissime memoria repetimus quanta et qualia largissima manus vestra nobis graciose donavit; pro quibus ex profundi cordis vena fontali graciarum acciones unanimiter exhaurimus, quas vestre reverendissime paternitati totis viribus immolamus, supplicantes cum prostrato spiritu, quatinus ad alme

[1] Here follow five lines completely obliterated. [2] *sub datos sub.* MS.
[3] *consulacionis* ib.

matris nostre commodum et honorem continue perseveret gracia paternalis; nec amplius nostra desistit fiducia, quam vestram penes paternitatem habemus, karissimum confratrem nostrum magistrum T. Colas utriusque juris egregium doctorem, virum providum et circumspectum, laudabilibus meritis, moribus, et scienciis omniumque virtutum fragrancia redimitum, manuum vestrarum pio favori humiliter commendare; ut has devotas et humiles sue matris preces sibi suis in agendis senciat valituras. Reverendissima vestra paternitas, pro vigili putacione vinee, in felicitate plena per manus celestis Agricole premietur. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostra congregacionis domo mensis Julii die secundo*, vestre Universitatis humillimi filii Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque magistrorum regencium in eadem.

72.

Fol. 28 b.

To the Duke of Bedford.

Nothing is more praiseworthy than providing for the necessities of masters engaged in teaching, that their minds may be free from the anxiety of want. Having heard from our Chancellor of your intention to found a perpetual exhibition for this purpose, we venture to urge that it may be speedily effected. The teaching of the liberal arts and philosophy has been long almost extinct, and your liberality will redound to your honour.

1433. Illustrissimo principi serenissimoque domino, Domino duci Andegavie et Bedfordie regentique regni Francie, domino nostro singularissimo.

Serenissime princeps strenuissimeque domine, vestre precellentissime celsitudini humillima recommendacionis humanitate premissa. Nil sane laudabilius nilque memorabilius rebus sensetur in humanis quam, pro peculiari scienciarum et virtutum incremento, magistrorum in almis Universitatibus ipsas docencium relevari inopias; quo bonorum fortune freti adminiculo iidem, quos aliter inedia a studio distraheret, pro studentes ibidem efficaciter imbuendo, prosperius continuare valent: et presertim tanto pocius quanto hujuscemodi studiorum[1] fama, fulgore vere doctrine talis mediacione subsidii continuato, et tandem in quarumlibet scienciarum ac facultatum plenam crescente ubertatem, merito apud universos supereminenter crebrescens, suorum et relevancium gloriosum et splendidum ubilibet reddit nomen. Modo namque—ut relatu egregii ac honorabilis doctoris circumspectique viri, magistri

[1] *studeorum* MS.

Gilberti Kymer, vestra contemplacione in nostrum denuo prefecti Cancellarium, necnon magistri W. Kilnewelmersch, vestri capellani, nuperrime unanimiter exultando recepimus—vestra dominacio quandam exhibicionem perpetuam pro doctoribus et magistris regentibus, ad ordinariam nedum[1] arcium liberalium et philosophiarum, itaque[2] quarumlibet aliarum facultatum in nostra Universitate continuandam lecturam, Deo propicio et annuente, liberaliter providere graciose intendit et proponit; ut plereque sciencie satis nobiles diutino[3] sopore, seu verius nexibus mortis oppresse, ad vitam, vestra benefica manu de sepulchro ignorancie expergefacte, gloriosissime resuscitentur. Unde vestram inclitissimam suppliciter deprecando quesumus serenitatem, quatenus vestram toti ecclesie Catholice et nobis tam honorabilem et tam profecticiam intencionem celerem deducere dignemini in effectum: internius, princeps preexcellentissime, advertentes, quod tam meritorii operis magnifica execucione, quam ardentissime spei affeccione flammea prestolamur, vestra largiflua munificencia nostra Universitas locupletata, ad vestri nominis perpetuam magnificenciam eterneque glorie premium, in diviciis scienciarum procul dubio ad apicem crescit desideratissime perfeccionis. In quibus vobis, quoad utrumque hominem, continue feliciter prosperatis, vestram prepotentissimam inclitudinem tam in via quam patria jugiter abundare optamus munimine Christi Jesu. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, penultimo die mensis Junii.* Vestre illustrissime serenitatis humillimi oratores Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

73.

To the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.

Master Christopher Knollys has told us of your goodness to him; and we are thankful both for that and also for your favour to us shown by your promotion of graduates.

REVERENDO in Christo patri et domino, domino Willelmo, Dei gracia Conventriensi et Lichfeldensi episcopo. 1433.

Reverencias omnimodas, et, pro impensis constudencium vinee beneficiis, eterne beatitudinis recompensam possidere finaliter cum beatis. Quia ex relacione venerabilis confratris nostri Cristopheri Knollys, arcium magistri et in theologia baccalarii, nuper accepimus quanta vestre paternalis benevolencie beneficia graciosa eidem contulistis; nec cessat indies paterna vestra gracia, eciam non pulsata,

[1] *septem?* [2] *atque?* [3] *diuteno* MS.

sacras vestras manus [ad][1] nostre matris filios promovendos extendere graduatos; hec igitur vivaci contemplantes memoria, ad interiores nostri[2] cordis reddendas graciarum acciones, quas valemus, merito excitamur; dignum namque resensentes philosophico ex dicto illud tocius ad integritatem pertinere quod sue parti impenditur ad profectum. Preterea nostra non desistit fiducia, quam penes vestram
Fol. 29 a. habemus paternitatem graciosam, eundem confratrem nostrum, laudabilibus moribus meritis et scienciis omniumque virtutum splendoribus ac fragrancia redimitum, manibus vestre incepte caritatis graciosis commendare; supplicantes devote quatinus, quod ex vestre caritatis ardore eidem impensum cognoscimus, nostris intervenientibus precibus, ad continuacionem felicem in posterum senciamus. Paternitatem vestram Jesus Christus conservet in humanis, et in terra vivencium vos ascribat collegio pontificum supernorum. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, quinto die mensis Augusti.* Vestre paternitatis devoti oratores Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium in eadem.

74.

To the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Lord Chancellor.

We know that you distribute justice equally to all, and are sure of your filial love for the University, your mother and ours. To you we feel no shame in exposing our calamities. At this critical time, when this our mother is, so to speak, in labour, bringing forth the fruits of learning, she is threatened by unnatural sons with loss of her vital privileges.

Suprascripcio Littere.

1433. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Johanni, Dei gracia Batoniensi et Wellensi episcopo, Anglie Cancellario, suo domino singularissimo.

Humillime recommendacionis obsequium omnimodis cum reverenciis pariter et honore. Etsi singulis juris beneficia petentibus sub favore vestre paternitatis libera pietas scaturiat distribuitque manu larga; permaxime tamen pias ipsius matris preces lacrimosis evisceratas cum suspiriis, de cujus lactante ubere absque defectu vestra florigera scienciarum maturitas traxit ortum, exaudire[3] solet ab antiquo, prout ordinati amoris normula decrevit perenniter. O pie pater, pastor vigilans circa gregem, zelator cleri, regni consultor ac tribunali judex

[1] *ad* omitted MS. [2] *nostre* ib. [3] *exaudiri* ib.

in majori, ad vestre exaudicionis oraculum Universitas mater nostra, tamquam ad firmiorem ipsius columnam ejusque precipuum solamen, in adversis, ululantem erigit vultum, non dedignando genuflectorias precum effundere instancias, nec sua inaudita damnosaque opprobria fateri veretur; sed velut inverecunda, multiplicem verecundiam, per ingratos, licet non iniquos, utinam equos, filios sibi nuperrime initam pariterque prosecutam, audet proclamare voce alta. Nam ipsa, morum et scienciarum fecunditate gravida, timet cum timore, ne a suis emulis uterinisque filiis molestetur in partu; ac pavescens ululat, cum videt a suis se libertatibus denudari pristinis. Igitur ad tam sinceri patris favorem consueteque[1] proteccionis refugium festinat in presenti, per discretos providosque viros magistros W. Dowson, nostre Universitatis procuratorem, et Robertum Bewley, arcium magistrum; vestram paternalem informando clemenciam de et super omnibus et singulis actis vel[2] factis, propter que reverendissime paternitati vestre predicti magistri delegantur in oratores; votis cum internis supplicando, quatenus prefatos oratores clemencius exaudire[3], ac in dicendis ceterisque proponendis fidem in mente vestre paternitatis dignemini stabilire; cujus inclitissimam pastoralemque paternitatem in prosperis augmentet Deus unus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Octobris die secundo.*

Infra-scripcio littere.

Devotissima vestra oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

75.

To the Pope.

Fol. 29 b.

In behalf of Thomas Rodebourne, begging that his election to the Bishoprick of S. David's may be confirmed. He has filled the highest offices in the University and the royal palace; he is chosen alike by king, nobles and commons, is of irreproachable life, and of profound learning, and will, we cannot doubt, faithfully feed the flock committed to his charge.

Sanctissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Eugenio, divina providencia sacrosancte ac universalis ecclesie summo pontifici. 1433.

Devotissima ante pedes terrarum oscula humillime recommendacionis votis cum omnimodis. Beatissime pater, militantis ecclesie diadema, firmissima fidei petra, sceptrum spei Christiane celicaque potestas, vestre sanctitatis preterrenda clemencia benignitasque magnifica, a supplicatoriis precum votis per fidem[4] oblatis domesticus[5] nulla-

[1] *consueti* MS. [2] *ve* ib. [3] *exaudiri* ib. [4] *fidei* ib. [5] *domesticum*?

tenus retardat auditum, dum ad sacrosancte ecclesie honorem fideliumque salutem sua pertractant negocia, immo pocius, tanquam materna pietas claustrata in visceribus, ipsorum preces resalutare solet cum effectu; hinc est quod tam sanctissimi[1] patris obedientissima proles Universitas studii Oxoniensis, mater tamen nostra, omnimode erubescens vecordie audacem erigit[2] animum, genuflexas ministrando supplicaciones[3] pro incorporatissimo filio suo confratreque nostro Thoma Rodebourne, in longevis virtutum diebus probatissime stabilitum, scienciarum liberalium sacreque theologie irradiante fulgore; quem quondam concors Universitatis prelibate caterva, suis interne contemplatis meritis, in ipsius studii regimen ejusque Cancellarium tanquam solidiorem vocavit in agendis, quem et illustrissimi regis nostri vivax consilium humanis in regendis[4] providum, lucidiorem velut lucernam in regio palacio ordinavit, ut ipsius lux conversacione ac vita juvenescens aliorum luceat ad exemplar; et quem jam his novissimis in diebus ac ad Dei laudem, tuitorium Petri navicule solamen[5], monstruosorum morum extirpacionem ac fidei augmentum, ut speramus, devota famosaque ecclesia Menevensis, Spiritu Sancto duce vie[6], Canonice elegit in pastorem; quem ad cathedram exaltari pastoralem metuendissimi[7] domini regis nostri quam felix regalia procerum ac tocius populi inviscerata affectat adopcio. Quis pater pius tam circumspecti filii denegaret honorem, quis pastor benevolus subditi tam providi retraheret mercedem, quis dispensator fidelis servi tam diligentis rejiceret famulatum? Numquid circumspectum Salomonem paterna pietas, cum sceptro honoravit regali; numquid legem per Mosaicam, ubi ministrorum ecclesie militantis fructus figuratur mercedis, tribus preaccepta Levitica; numquid et ipse Pharao diligenciam Joseph in famulatu adoptavit regni ad salutem? O pie pater, porta salutis, mundi vita, sidus aureum cunctis illustrans Christicolis, lex regnorumque regimen, presulum gemma ac celigenis[8] compar, per humillimas precum instancias mediis cum commendatoriis, prout caritativum veritatis vinculum nos coarctat, sanctissime vestre dirigimus habundanciusque effundimus paternitati; quatinus tam felicem viatorem, in vinea Domini custodem pervigilem, vita immaculata, moribus virtuosis, conversacioneque modesta pubescentem senili sub mensura, sua in eleccione suscipere commendatum, et confirmare ac admittere apostolica dignetur celsitudo; inopinatam tenentes credenciam, quod dictus vir egregius, quia in agro dominico, diebus juvenescens ab antiquis, scienciarum quesivit margaritas, ac sancte conversacionis oleum interioris sui hominis aptavit lampade, si ad

[1] *sanctissime* MS. [2] *erregit* ib. [3] *supplicationis* ib. [4] *regendisque* ib.
[5] *solamen* repeated in MS. [6] *via* ib. [7] *metuendissime* ib. [8] *ciliginis* ib.

quietum . . .[1] gregis laborem ejusque servile regimen vocatus fuerit vel[2] admissus, velut pastor mansuetus Mosaica sequens vestigia, sic pane vite apostoliceque doctrine populum saturabit esurientem, ac aqua sapientis potabit exempli, ut tandem gregem sibi commissum, ad viatice ecclesie honorem triumphantisque augmentum, velut alter Josue, ad promissionis terram deducet celestem. Ad cujus terre fertile gaudium, post hujus vite terminum vestre paternitatis sublimitatem dirigat Dei verbum. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, terciodecimo Octobris.* Humillima vestre sanctitatis Universitas studii Oxoniensis, Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

Testimonial letter for Master Thomas Longe. Fol. 30 a.

LITTERA testimonialis sub communi forma erat sigillata pro magistro Thoma Longe. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Octobris die vicesimo quarto anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo tercio.* 1433.

76.

To the Pope.

Praying that the election of Thomas Bourchier to the Bishoprick of Worcester may be confirmed. He is both by character and attainments most fitted for the office; and distinguished by royal descent, a qualification acknowledged by Moses in the appointment of the seventy.

SANCTISSIMO in Christo patri et domino, Domino Eugenio, divina providencia Sacrosancte Romane ac universalis ecclesie summo pontifici. 1433.

Sanctissime pater, fidelissima servitutis obsequia ad apostolice gracie sacra vestigia, officiaque uniformis obediencie et recommendacionis humillime, ac sue solaris gratifice[3] splendoris radium graciosum prestanti in apice honestatis stelle clemencius impertiri. Quoniam in splendifero militantis ecclesie firmamento vestre sanctitatis inexhaustam plenitudinem, velut tocius mundi solem omnium graciarum radiis radiantem, summa in apostolice sanctitatis arce supernis perpetuo titulis inthronizat sol immensi luminis Jesus Christus, ut permicantes sui liberalissimi luminis radios stella firmissimis fidei matutinis, specialiter regii sanguinis claritate fulgentibus, morum nobilium et scienciarum splendore illustratis, eximie ex sue munifice

[1] An abortive word here, MS. [2] *ve* ib. [3] *sue gratifice* ib. This letter is written in a good clerkly hand, and as usual, when that is the case in this collection, is more confused.

celsitudinis luciflua largitate et velit et valeat graciose respergere; ac quos amplioribus virtutum luminibus et meritis preconceperit relucere, hos spiritualium beneficiorum insigniis dignetur gratanter aspicere et graciosius premiare. Quapropter, vestre in apostolice sanctitatis gracia tam immensa indubiam spem ponentes, ejusdem sanctitatis filium predevotum, magistrum Thomam Bourgcheour, regalis sanguinis serenitate insignitum, quem magistralis honor in artibus illustre Universitatis sidus preclarissimum precipue sublimavit, et quem sacra facultas theologica gratissimum preelegit in alumpnum, eo internius et affectuosius vestre graciosissime celsitudini commendare curavimus, quo ipsum morum illustrium et meritorum insignium celeberrima gravitate prepollentem, tanquam predicande presentis vite speculum et lucernam, ecclesie forte robur, prerutilans cleri jubar, in spiritualium et temporalium regimine gemino circumspectum, providissimum virum et maturum preagnovimus clara luce: firmissime tenentes ecclesie statum sub regii[1] sanguinis illustrissima columpna semper prosperius et felicius roborari. Ad pedum igitur beatorum sacratissima prostrati vestigia, humillimo spiritu unanimiter supplicamus, quatenus quem tocius regni procerum optumatum et communitatis votiva desideria digne preofferunt erigendum, meritorum suorum intuitu, et vestre sanctitatis humillime ancille nostre Universitatis supplici interventu, et precipue regalis sanguinis clarissimi generis contemplacione, —exemplo Moisi, qui illustris sanguinis minime obliviscens majores natu preferendo voluit revereri, cum dicit '*congregate ad me omnes majores natu per tribus vestras, atque doctores*,'—dignetur paternis affectibus confovere, et in Wigorniensis ecclesie pastorem sublimare apostolice gracie dignissima plenitudo: quam ad sue universalis ecclesie tranquillum regimen et munimen conservare dignetur, Qui vos caput orbis constituit et dominum providencia sua sancta. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, secundo die Decembris.* Humillima vestre sanctitatis ancilla Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Testimonial letter for Master Theobald Dages.

1433. Littera testimonialis sub communi forma erat sigillata pro Theobaldo Dages. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Decembris die septimo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo tercio*, eciam testimoniales de gradu et regencia consueta.

Fol. 30 b.

Testimonial letter for Master Thomas Loughburgh.

Littera testimonialis sub forma communi cum ista clausula addita,

[1] *regie* MS.

scilicet, *qui in ultimo anno preterito per cujuslibet termini majorem partem, prout statuta dicte Universitatis requirunt, inter nos sacre theologie studia exercuit*, &c., fuit sigillata pro magistro Thoma Loughburgh, arcium magistro, sub dato scilicet mensis Decembris die vicesimo primo anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo tercio, &c.

Acquittance of Agnes Bokbynder, widow.

NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Gilbertum Kymer, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Willelmum Dousyn et Rogerum Bulkeley, procuratores ejusdem, totumque cetum magistrorum in eadem remisisse, relaxasse, et omnino, pro nobis et dicta Universitate et successoribus nostris, in perpetuum quietum clamasse Agneti Bokbynder, vidue—nuper uxori Walteri Bokbynder, quondam stacionarii predicte Universitatis—omnimodas acciones reales et personales, querelas, sectas et demanda, cujuscunque fuerint nature, ab origine mundi usque in diem confeccionis presencium: In cujus rei testimonium presentibus sigillum nostrum commune apposuimus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo octavo die Januarii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo tercio, et anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum duodecimo.* 1433.

Acquittances of Eynsham and Oseney Abbeys.

LITTERA acquietancie pro pensione annua octo et sexaginta solidorum de Abbate de Eynsham, pro collecta magistrorum regencium. *Datum undecimo die Februarii anno regni regis Henrici sexti duodecimo.* 1433.

Alia littera acquietancie pro annua pensione sex et viginti solidorum octo denariorum de Abbate de Oseneya, pro collecta magistrorum regencium. *Datum undecimo die Februarii anno regni regis Henrici sexti duodecimo.*

77[1].

To the Pope.

A second letter in behalf of Thomas Bourchier, to the same effect as the former. Importunity in his behalf excused by the examples of the Canaanitish woman and the blind man.

SANCTISSIMO in Christo patri et domino nostro, Domino Eugenio, divina providencia sacrosancte Romane ac universalis ecclesie summo pontifici. 1433.

[1] This epistle is crossed out in the MS., as is also that next following.

Sanctissime pater, subditissima famulatus obsequia cum devotissimis terre osculis ante pedes. Quia ab apostolice plenitudinis excelso throno, velut a fecundissimo fonte, in membrorum[1] rivulos et compagines mistici corporis Jesu Christi omnem regni celestis potenciam firmissima fide agnovimus[2] derivari; membra[3] presertim capiti viciniora, que multiformioris gracie et virtutis capitalisque influencie magis redduntur capacia, ad sublimiorem prestancioremque vite decorem plenius promovendo assolet influere capitis plenitudo. Quocirca in precelsa sanctitate vestra ad plenum confidentes, beatitudinis vestre devotum filium, sciencia maturum, discrecione providum omniumque virtutum redimitum splendoribus, magistrum Thomam Bourgchier, filie vestre nostre Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, in spiritualibus et temporalibus notorie circumspectum — quem vicini regii sanguinis regalisque prosapie illustrissima sublimitas conserenat, et quem nuper in Wygorniensis ecclesie antistitem Sancti Spiritus instinctus purissimus canonice sublimandum assumpsit — apostolice celsitudini in dicta ecclesia graciosius confirmandum sinceris commendantes affectibus flexis genibus unanimiter supplicamus; sicut nuperrime in aliis nostris humillimis litteris eidem vestre beatitudini destinatis supplicamus viscerose; quatinus dictum magistrum Thomam —quem tocius regni Anglie procerum, optimatum, et communitatis
Fol. 31 a. votiva desideria digne proclamant erigendum—meritorum suorum intuitu, regalisque prosapie clarissimi generis contemplacione, instar Moysi majores natu preferendo, paternis dignetur confovere affectibus, et in dicte Wygorniensis ecclesie pastorem sublimare gracie apostolice plenitudo [devotissima[4]]. Et si sepius iterata rogamina improbitate pulsancium sint molesta, tamen fervencius in rogando persistitur ut demum graciosius rogans propositum consequatur. Obtinuit siquidem salutem filie clamor improbus Chananee, et visum recepit magis ac magis clamans cecus Domino transiunte. Nos igitur sanctitatis vestre fervidissimi zelatores eo securius preces precibus superaddimus pro dicto nostro Cancellario, quo specialius de apostolice sanctitatis gracia ad cleros spe inconcussa duximus confidendum. Sanctitatem vestram prosperari faciat in tranquilla dierum plenitudine, cujus vicem geritis, ipse Deus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Maii die undecimo.* Humillima apostolice sanctitatis ancilla Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

[1] *menbrorum* MS. [2] *agnovovimus* ib. [3] *menbra* ib. [4] Added in margin, but by a contemporary hand.

78.

To the Pope—pro Magistro T. C.

The widespread fame of your virtues emboldens us to commend to your holiness Master Thomas Chace, many years our Chancellor, and Chancellor of Ireland; and recently chosen to be bishop of Meath. We beg that, weighing his great merits and our prayer in his behalf, you will confirm the appointment.

Pro Magistro T. C.

SANCTISSIME pater, humillima consuete recommendacionis obse- 1433.
quiosa libamina cum devotissimis terre osculis ante pedes. Sacer et insignis militantis ecclesie principatus, quem, ut presit orbi, Pontifex ille eternus instituit—qui '*semel in sancta proprium introiit per sanguinem,*' nuptam sibi ecclesiam constituens in alto, ut in omnis honoris excellencia cum plenitudine potestatis universas orbis transcenderet dignitates—sui luminis splendoribus illustravit, cum sanctitatem vestram summa thronizabat in apostolorum sede, ut cedrina vestra sub celsitudine humiles ramunculi firmissime efficiantur ecclesie columpne, filii patres providi, et subjecti pastores gregis Christi. Concors igitur omnium virtutum concio et amplissima sanctitatis insignia, que de vestra sanctitate precelsa in humanam prodeunt noticiam, mira nostram mentem suavitate reficiunt, et ad eandem humilius devociusque supplicandam allectiva sua dulcedine nos inducunt, pro honorabili viro et patre egregio magistro T. Chace, sacre theologie professore—et sua ob famosissima merita circumspecteque mentis industriam nostre Universitatis, vestre humillime filie, annos per plurimos Cancellario sepius electo; et jam per aliquot annos illustrissimi domini nostri regis terre sue Hibernie Cancellario, exigentibus semper suis laudabilibus meritis in agendis—quatenus eundem, denuo jam ad Midensis ecclesie in Hibernia pastorale regimen nominatum, cujus virtutum fontana lux in occiduis scintillantis fame splendoribus in regno prerutilat universo, commendatum suscipere et [confirmare][1] dignetur vestra apostolica celsitudo: tenentes istum magne probitatis et sciencie virum, in regendis ecclesie rebus notorie idoneum, aurigam currus Israel et humilem Bethsaide piscatorem; quem Ille novit erigi dignum '*qui corda scrutatur et renes,*' quem eciam tocius regni procerum, optimatum, et communitatis votiva proclamant desideria digne erigendum dicte ecclesie in pastorem, et nostra eciam vota paternali vestre clemencie ipsum offerunt commendandum internius; ut has nostras instancias et preces humillimas sibi cum effectu senciat pro-

[1] *confirmare* added in the margin, but by a contemporary hand, MS.

fuisse. Sanctitatem vestram ad tranquillum militantis ecclesie regimen prosperari faciat in humanis, cujus vicem geritis, Dei Filius gloriosus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Junii die septimo decimo.*

79.

To the Duke of Bedford.

Master Thomas Chace has been nominated to be bishop of Meath. We ask your intercession for him, with the Pope, the King, and others who have influence, that his appointment may be confirmed. Princes do honour to their high lineage by procuring good pastors for the church.

1433. SERENISSIMO principi Johanni, duci Bedfordie regentique regni Francie, domino nostro specialissimo et graciosissimo protectori.

Serenissime princeps, precellentissime vestre dominacioni recommendacionis humillime oblacione premissa, et ut nomen et potenciam in eternum paveant inimici. Christianissimi principis devocio tunc laudabiliter honorat sue serenitatis prosapiam, cum militantis ecclesie locis in supremis congruos et ydoneos faciat eligi pastores, qui sciant velint et valeant utilitatibus ecclesie inservire; speculatorem namque domus Israel vigiles decet oculos circumferre, vigilias noctis incumbit agere supra gregem, ne populus Dei, scilicet oves paschue Ejus, quibus cura defuerit, luporum, quod absit, morsibus exponantur. Ad ecclesiam igitur Midensem in Hibernia, sue viduitatis incommoda deplorantem, honorabilem virum magistrum Thomam Chace, illus-
Fol. 31 b. trissimi domini nostri regis terre sue Hibernie Cancellarium, et nuper plures per annos nostrum in Oxonia providissimum Cancellarium, ac nuper ad ecclesiam Midensem nominatum in pastorem, potentibus vestre serenitatis manibus promovendum humillime commendamus; supplicantes prostrato spiritu quatenus mediis et litteris vestris graciosis penes dominos Papam, regem et proceres, quorum interest in hac parte discernere, ipsum erigi in dicte ecclesie pastorem dignetur vestra serenitas graciosa: per quod indubie rem Deo et sue ecclesie acceptam, nobis et universo populo gratissimam vestra poterit magnificencia operari, ad metuendissimi domini nostri regis robur honorificum, et felicem regnorum requiem. Vestram dominacionem prosperari faciat splendor et vigor omnis milicie solus Deus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Junii die septimo decimo.* Vestre dominacionis perpetui oratores Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

80.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

To be the means of defending the faith, banishing heresy and promoting wise and good men to places of dignity makes the name of princes glorious; we therefore humbly pray that you will use your interest with the Pope, the King, and others, in behalf of Master Thomas Chace. Your goodness to us in the past gives us confidence that you will assist us now.

SERENISSIMO principi duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, magno camerario Anglie, domino nostro specialissimo et graciosissimo protectori. 1433.

Serenissime princeps, tante celsitudini, devocionis et servicii premissis humillimis desideriis pro maximis constudencium vinee beneficiis impensis, cum Christi gloriosis in futuro militibus triumphalis glorie laurea coronari. De innata ingenuaque proceritate procedit, ut, sicut de Domino accepta devocio fervescit in subditis, sic apud dominum suis de servitoribus vivens semper memoria perennatur; et nullum opus, ut tenemus, principis nomen diucius facit vigilare in laudem, quam illud opus quo prudentes circumspectique viri majores eriguntur ad dignitates, fides pululat, heresis exulat, vineaque doctrine fructificat in ecclesia Dei sancta. Igitur dominacioni vestre devota effundimus precum libamina, unanimiter supplicantes prostrato spiritu pro humillimo vestro servitore et capellano, magistro T. Chace, nuper nobis honorando patre, quatenus ipsum, sicut alias vestra decrevit serenitas, ad ecclesiam Midensem in Hibernia promovere mediis et vestris litteris graciosis dignemini penes dominum Papam, regem et proceres, quorum interest in hac parte. Speramus enim quod non de facili labitur fundamentum in solido fixum, nec negocium levibus poterit obviancium casibus occumbere, quod tanti principis serenitatis magnifica decrevit dextera sustinere. Nos insuper, per assidua et amplissima a dominacione vestra percepta beneficia sincero favore ad nostram Universitatem vos affici censentes, attamen eo securius preces precibus superaddimus, quo de solita dominacione vestra, in omnibus honores nostros et commoda concernentibus, indubitata duximus fiducia confidendum; sicut et, ad complendum totis viribus que precipienda duxeritis, in nobis non deerit debita promptitudo. Dominacionem vestram in eterna prosperari faciat memoria, ecclesie ad fulcimentum, cleri subsidium et tocius regni gaudium ineffabile, Trinitas increata. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Junii die septimo decimo.* Vestre dominacionis perpetui oratores Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

81.

To the Duke of Bedford.

Learning is the noblest of noble things, it is at once the glory and defence of kings, the source and strength of good government; it composes strife, encourages justice and renders subjects obedient; but poverty is its stepmother, we trust therefore that you will carry out your design of founding lectures in the seven liberal arts and three philosophies, and we send our Chancellor who will explain to you how great is the poverty of our masters lecturing here.

1433. SERENISSIMO principi Johanni, duci Bedfordie regentique regni Francie, domino nostro et graciosissimo protectori.

Serenissime princeps, quem collaudancium preconio oratorum Universitatis nostre cetus glorificat unanimis, pro zelo fidei [et][1] cleri, donum glorie consequi cum beatis. Glorioso principi cedit ad gloriam, efficiturque in dominantis obsequium fide et dileccione devocior plebs[2] subjecta, si sub ipsius temporibus sciencia velut lux merediana in medio firmamenti prefulgeat in clero. Sciencia enim, virtus virens assidue, regum decor et regnorum tutela, ex cujus thalamo policia progreditur regnorum, regum firmantur edicta, bellorum discrimina compescuntur, justicia prodit pacifica[3], plebs[2] plaudit subjecta, nobilium extat nobilis principissa. Quod advertens vestra serenitas, dum ad septem arcium liberalium triumque philosophiarum in nostra
Fol. 32 a. Universitate continuandam lecturam, quandam perpetuam exhibicionem providere intendebat et proposuit graciose. Unde vestram inclitissimam efflagitamus serenitatem, quatinus inchoatam lecturam per vos inventam et erectam, toti ecclesie catholice et universo orbi honorabilem, expulsa studiorum noverca egestate, in manibus prevalentissime vestre potencie manutenere dignemini, ad Dei gloriam[4], vestri nominis perpetuam magnificenciam eternaleque vobis meritum sine fine: considerantes graciose, quod non procedet de posse tam pauperculorum magistrorum tam arduum et honorificum opus continuare absque sufficiente sustentacione studentibus requisita. Et quia sub compendio litterali singula claudere non valemus, hoc intentum nostrum negocium concernencia egregio viro, domino nostro Cancellario, commisimus serenitati vestre declaranda; cui aures favoris et credencie benigniter adhibere dignetur vestra illustrissima celsitudo: quam optate sub pacis nodo regna dirigere, que vestri principatus subduntur regimini, annuat orbis Conditor ineffabilis[5] Princeps pacis. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre*

[1] *et* omitted in MS. [2] *ples* ib. [3] *proacifica* ib. [4] *laudem* erased ib. [5] *inaffabilis* ib.

congregacionis domo, octavo vicesimo die Junii. Vestre dominacionis perpetui oratores, doctores et magistri regentes Universitatis Oxoniensis.

82.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

What aim can be more noble than the advancement of learning, which raises man above the beasts and lifts him up towards a higher life? It was a divine inspiration that suggested the foundation of lectures, and we hope the intention will be fully carried out. Let not poverty, that cursed stepmother of learning, disappoint us of our hopes.

SERENISSIMO principi, duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, magno camerario Anglie, domino nostro et graciosissimo protectori. 1433.

Serenissime princeps, milicie jubar, justicie splendor et sane fidei tutissime defensator, vestre metuendissime celsitudini quicquid recommendacione humilius aut devocius in humanis. Quis[1] hic in via devociori, quesumus, valebit incorporari proposito, vel sanccioris[2] sibi voti inviscerari[3] operibus, quam nutrire sciencias, que erectum hominem supra bestias terre feliciter provehunt usque celum. O precelsa vestra serenitas, O celica inspiracio, cujus septem liberalium arcium triumque philosophiarum ope, cura, et studio inventa lectura fuerat et erecta; cui nescimus voces erumpere graciarum nec digne laudis excogitare tributa, apud cujus celsitudinem providissimam fidei ortodoxe et cleri virentis fulciminis inoccidua memoria perennatur! Sed dum his exhilaremur iniciis, et nostrum quilibet intentissimo animo, in attenuacione spirituum et lugubracione noccium continuatis laboribus, studiis se exponat, circumveniri timemus, ne execranda studii noverca paupertas lamentabiliter surripiat ad occasum quod vestra serenitas selitus[4] inspirata, non solum nobis viventibus verum eciam universo Christianissimo erexit in titulum gloriosum. Nam necessario arbor arescit que radicis non sentit fomentum. Qua de re vestre magnificencie memores promissi in hac parte, quod nostrum cetum spei firme magnis profudit gaudiis, serenitati vestre inclitissime supplicamus humilius et cordialius quo valemus, quatinus in fertili campo scienciarum predictarum, sub cedrina vestra celsitudine, teneri studiorum ramunculi crescant, frondeant et floreant, flores fructibus secuturis; ut dominacioni vestre honor pululet eximius, et ex honore fama ad Dei laudem oriatur altiloqua sine fine. Et egregio viro domino nostro Cancellario nostram insufficienciam et penuriam in hac parte vestre inclitissime

[1] *Quid?* [2] *sanctioris vite sibi voti, vite* erased MS. [3] *eterne laudis operibus, eterne laudis* erased MS. [4] i. e. *celitus.*

dominacioni proposituro, nostrarum[1] humillimarum precum instanciis, credencie aures dignemini efficaciter inclinare: Cui post tropheum hujus transiture milicie coronam ineffabilis glorie summus ipse Deus tribuat in supernis. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo octavo die Junii.* Vestre dominacionis perpetui oratores, doctores et magistri regentes Universitatis Oxoniensis.

83.

Fol. 32 b. **To the Bishop of Bath and Wells.**

We shall never forget you in our prayers. Grateful for your past good offices we venture further to implore your assistance, and especially in defending a statute we have recently made, in accordance with our privileges, for the better preservation of peace in the town. Let not the malice and cunning of the townsmen ruin us altogether.

1434. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Johanni, Dei gracia Wellensi et Bathoniensi episcopo, Anglie Cancellario, et in omni singularissimo protectori.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, quem in nostrarum oracionum archivis viscerose reponimus et habemus, dies deducere leticie cum prosperitatis augmento in omnium Salvatore. Preteritorum memoria et presencium evidencia, que benevola de paternitatis vestre gracia prodierunt in lucem, ad matris nostre Universitatis commodum et honorem, ad reddenda cumulata graciarum tributa nos provocant et impellunt. Assurgimus igitur unanimiter ad omnimodas quas valemus graciarum acciones dominacioni vestre humillime offerendas: nec desistimus, ex fiducia quam penes dominacionem vestram gerimus, nostre matris [negocia amplius commendare; et precipue in defendendo statutum virtute nostrorum privilegiorum nuper pro bono pacis in villa][2] Oxonie, ut credimus, pocius celitus quam humanitus editum; ex quo fructus graciae et studii nobis plus solito emanavit. Ejusdem dominacionis vestre continuacionem graciosam nobis omnino necessariam humiliter obsecramus; corde et animo Deum collaudantes, qui tale nobis inexpugnabile providit brachium contra nocivos turbines emulorum. Ad has[3] tamen eidem paternitati vestre graciosissime iteratas nostras adicimus preces, ne villanorum dicte ville Oxonie maliciosis excogitatis insidiis succumbamus, aut desideratissime pacis nostre Universitatis dissoluta membra dispergantur 'in capite omnium platearum'; si namque pax inter nos arrideat, et nostrum studium fertilius

[1] *vestrarum* MS. [2] The words inclosed in brackets are added in the margin, but by the same hand, ib. [3] *Ad hiis* ib.

efflorebit. Paternitatem vestram nostris precarissimam oracionibus dirigat in prosperis vere pacis Auctor, qui ut pacem suis fidelibus emeret, sanguinem suum fudit. *Scriptum Oxonie octodecimo die Januarii.* Vestre paternitatis oratrix humillima Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

84.

To the Bishop of Winchester.

The statute, which we made in the interests of peace both of townsmen and scholars, for a time met with no opposition; but now a veritable deluge threatens to sweep it away. We implore your help to defend it.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia Anglie Cardinali, episcopo Wyntoniensi et nostro singularissimo protectori. 1434.

Reverendissime pater, quem ob admirandam discrecionis et sapiencie plenitudinem universa orbis climata reverentur, obsequiosa nostre recommendacionis libamina tam precelso patri debita cum honore. Speramus indubie firmissimeque confidimus quod consiliis justorum assistens Dominus, et vota nostra aspirando preveniens, ipsa adjuvando prosequi dignabitur, si effusa desuper gracia tam nobilem patrem inspiraverit affectibus, ad subveniendum nobis variis persequencium molestiis aggravatis. Cum alma mater nostra Universitas Oxoniensis privilegiorum et libertatum variis[1] cartis multipharie instaurata stabilitaque sistat—pro quibus eadem Universitas pro metuendissimo domino nostro rege suisque progenitoribus ac vestris devota Altissimo oracionum suffragia tenetur effundere indefesse—ex quarum cartarum tenore legalis eidem ministratur Universitati facultas, pro bono pacis et ad quietem studencium et aliorum omnium dictam villam inhabitancium, statuta condere et ordinaciones promulgare; nuper igitur, ex unanimi assensu et consensu nostram Universitatem integrancium, quoddam edidimus statutum laudabile et maxime necessarium ad studencium quietem et ceterorum predictam villam inhabitancium, ut indies experimur, contra pacis violatores, comprehensis in eodem '*sub penis*' virtute nostrorum privilegiorum '*exequendis*,' quod a tempore edicionis ejusdem continue, sine reclamacione scolarium sive villanorum extitit executum; ob quod in dicta villa major tranquillitas habebatur: sed jam contra illud sanum statutum virtute dictorum nostrorum privilegiorum taliter editum, adversancium villanorum diluvium intumescit. Igitur piissime paternitati vestre cum prostrato spiritu humillime supplicamus, quatinus nobis compassivis visceribus succurrentes dictum

[1] *variis* repeated MS.

nostrum statutum dignemini defendere graciose: ex quo nos fructus gracie quoad Deum, pacis pulchritudinem quoad mundum confidimus
Fol. 33 a. habituros. Et ad eandem vestram graciosissimam paternitatem in hunc effectum benignius inclinandum, nobilem virum magistrum Thomam Bourgchier, nostre Universitatis providum Cancellarium, dirigimus; cui ex parte nostra in hiis que premissa concernunt, graciosas audienciae aures dignemini inclinare. Ad felix ecclesie et sui cleri presidium, disertissimam vestram paternitatem longeve dirigat in prosperis dextra Salvatoris. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, undevicesimo die Januarii.* Vestre reverendissime paternitatis oratrix humillima Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

85.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

A similar letter to the preceding 'mutatis mutandis,' and on the same subject.

1434. Serenissimo principi, Domino Humfrido, duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, et magno camerario Anglie, et nostro graciosissimo protectori.

Serenissime princeps, quem specialiter inter alios mundi principes revereri tenemur, nostra obsequiosa servicia, oracionum suffragia et quicquid devocius hauriri valeat de latere Redemptoris. Memorabilia vestre dominacionis beneficia graciosissimaque vestre serenitatis munera, quibus vestra magnificencia humilem vestram oratricem Universitatem Oxoniensem sublimavit, nos audaces efficiunt eandem serenitatem in nostris necessitatibus maximis exorare. Cum alma mater nostra, *&c., usque ibi*[1] 'intumescit'. . . Igitur prepotenti dominacioni vestre cum prostrato spiritu, *&c., usque ibi* 'inclinare.' Serenitati vestre felix arrideat fortuna, et successus non desinat prosperos continue parturire. *Scriptum Oxonie, ut supra.* Serenitatis vestre oratrix humillima Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

86.

To the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Lord Chancellor.

Confident in your benevolence towards your mother the University, we commend to your favour the bearer hereof, a famous scholar, Master John Kyng, whose trumpet tones are never hoarse or weary preaching to the people the way to heaven.

[1] See preceding epistle.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri et domino, Domino Johanni, Dei gracia Wellensi et Bathoniensi episcopo, Anglie Cancellario, domino nostro graciosissimo et singularissimo protectori. 1434.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, ad quem solum habemus refugium in nostris necessitudinibus et negociis, vestre matris consuete commendacionis cordiale tributum, cum omni reverencia et honore debitis tanto patri; paterne benevolencie gracia, quam pro nostris indigenciis semper vigilem repperimus, pro recompensa meriti Altissimo commendata. Nec desistimus ex fiducia nostras humillimas preces eidem paternitati vestre presentare pro carissimo confratre nostro, magistro Johanne Kyng presencium latore, arcium magistro et in sacra theologia famoso scolare; qui viam que ducit ad patriam amplificans ad populum, velud sonora fructifere predicacionis tuba, in ostendendo plebi sua scelera non raucescit; quatenus ipsum habere dignemini commendatum, graciosam audienciam dicendis ab eodem prebentes, sibique existere dignemini graciosus dominus, contemplacione predicte Universitatis nostre sue matris pro filio tam digno deprecantis, ut has nostras et sue matris preces sibi senciat profuisse. Et reverendissimam paternitatem vestram perpetue nostre memorie commendatam solus Deus conservet in prosperis, ad vestrorum humilium solamina oratorum. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Februarii die nono.* Vestre paternitatis humillima oratrix Universitas studii generalis Oxoniensis.

87.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury. Fol. 33 b.

As the mother of Zebedee's children interceded for them, so does the University intercede for her son Master J. Kyng the bearer hereof, a famous scholar and indefatigable preacher. We pray you to hear his cause with the favour its merits deserve.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri et domino nostro, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati et apostolice sedis legato. 1434.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, ex cujus radiis graciosis Universitas mater nostra illustratur continue, omnimode devocionis tributum cum obediencia debita et honore. Magnificis beneficiis tanti patris vinee constudencium impensis pro recompensa condigna Altissimo commendatis, exemplo matris filiorum Zebedei eadem mater nostra Universitas se exponit pro filio suo, confratre nostro carissimo,

magistro Johanne Kyng, latore presencium, arcium magistro et in sacra theologia scolare famoso; qui viam que ducit ad patriam amplificans ad populum, velut sonora fructifere predicacionis tuba, in ostendendo plebi sua scelera non raucescit; humiliori devocione qua valeat supplicando, quatinus sinceris matris precibus pro tam digno filio deprecantis vestre paternitatis aures inclinare dignemini, ipsum commendatum una cum ab eo dicendis, que veritatem, justiciam et equitatem concernunt, acceptantes, taliter ut sue matris preces sibi senciat profuisse. Et reverendissimam vestram paternitatem, nostris devocionibus merito precarissimam, in felici prosperitatis augmento conservet et protegat infinita felicitate plenus ad vota filialia solus Deus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo mensis Februarii die nono.* Vestre paternitatis humillima oratrix Universitas studii generalis Oxoniensis.

88.

To the Lord Walter Hungerford.

To the same effect as the preceding letter, and in the same terms 'mutatis mutandis.'

1434. Nobili et prepotenti Baroni, domino Waltero Hungerford.

Nobilis et egregie domine, nostrarum commendacionum primicias reverencialesque devociones tanto domino debitas cum honore. Dominacionis vestre laudabilis fama lacius circumfusa, de benevolencia quam erga virtuosos cleros ostenditis, nos fiducialius animat nostras preces devotas eidem dominacioni vestre offerre pro carissimo confratre nostro magistro Johanne Kyng, latore presencium, arcium magistro, *&c., usque ibi* 'ab eo dicendis commendatum,' ut in potencia vestra veritas exultans vivat et falsitas corruat in plateis, graciosusque dominus sibi existere dignemini, contemplacione nostre Universitatis sue matris pro tam digno filio deprecantis, ut has nostras preces sibi senciat profuisse. Et vestram eminenciam militarem, ad ecclesie robur et gloriam sui nominis, conservet in prosperis Deus, in cujus manu sunt hominum corda et potestates. *Scriptum Oxonie mensis Februarii die nono.* Dominacionis vestre devota oratrix Universitas studii generalis Oxoniensis.

89.

Testimonial letter for Mr. John Kyng.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in amplexibus Salvatoris. Tociens altissime veritatis conspectui credimus offerre libamen, quociens virtutibus precellenti et sciencia perhibemus testimonium digne laudis. Hinc nos, super laudabili vita et honeste conversacionis fragrancia carissimi confratris nostri, magistri Johannis Kyng, arcium magistri et in sacra theologia scolaris, nostreque Universitatis providi procuratoris, qui disertissime suum occupabat officium; omnes quorum interest cerciorare volentes, ut tenemur, ne tam rutila fax lampadis sub taciturnitatis modio occultetur; has nostras per litteras attestamur, quod de predicti confratris nostri laudabilibus meritis et studiis tanta precessit experiencia, unde odorifera sui nominis fama, quam aput nos in honoris apicem pretulerunt eximie accionis preconia, latere non valuit; sed eminentem super columnam erigi digna ceteris se prebuit studentibus vitale imitacionis exemplum, et fructifere predicacionis omni populo lucem magnam; taliter[1] nostram Universitatem sua decorans presencia, omnique morum gravitate prefulgens matura, amorem omnium immaculati nominis titulo vendicavit. Quem igitur vestris venerabilibus reverenciis commendamus, intimius supplicantes quatinus eidem vos favorabiles et benignos, contemplacione nostre Universitatis et suorum meritorum intuitu, ubilibet ostendatis. In cujus rei testimonium eidem magistro Johanni super statu suo laudabili, ut omnibus plenius innotescat, has nostras litteras testimoniales nostre Universitatis communi sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Februarii die nono, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo quarto.* 1434.

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey. Fol. 34 a.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Bourgchier, Cancellarium alme Universitatis Oxoniensis, Michaelem Tregurry et Ricardum Tenand, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, recepisse, et die confeccionis presencium habuisse, de Abbate et conventu de Oseneye juxta Oxoniam, viginti sex solidos et octo denarios sterlingorum, nomine cujusdam pensionis annue nobis et dicte Universitati, pro anno regno regis Henrici sexti decimo tercio ultimo preterito, debite ab eisdem: De quibus viginti sex solidis et octo denariis dictum Abbatem et conventum 1434.

[1] *per nostram* MS.

acquietamus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo congregacionis dicte Universitatis septimo decimo die Marcii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti tercio decimo.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1434. Noverint universi per presentes nos, Thomam Burgchier, Cancellarium alme Universitatis Oxoniensis, Michaelem Tregurry et Ricardum Tenand, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, recepisse, et die confeccionis presencium habuisse, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sexaginta octo solidos sterlingorum, nomine cujusdam pensionis annue, nobis et dicte Universitati, pro anno regni regis Henrici sexti decimo tercio ultimo preterito, debite ab eisdem: De quibus sexaginta octo solidis dictum Abbatem et conventum acquietamus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo congregacionis dicte Universitatis septimo decimo die Marcii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti tercio decimo.*

90.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

May you be rewarded with eternal glory for your zeal in the cause of the faith, of the church, and of us your clerks. Future generations will keep in everlasting memory your magnificent gifts of books and money, and your gracious defence of our privileges. It is your wisdom that has revived learning, and we will devote ourselves to study with redoubled energy and confidence.

1435. Serenissimo principi Humfrido, duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, magno camerario Anglie, domino nostro magnifico et graciosissimo protectori.

Serenissime princeps, quem universalis vestre Universitatis cetus glorificat preconio pro zelo fidei, ecclesie, et sui cleri, cum beatis donis glorie finaliter premiari: Nobis non solum viventibus in eterna memoria sed et posteris recolenda vestre[1] serenitatis beneficia, in magnificis donis librorum et auri nostre impensis constudencium vinee; in magna quoque nostrorum privilegiorum tuicione semper graciosa nostri studii quietem concernencium, vivaci mentis registro contemplantes, nequimus voces graciarum erumpere, nec digne laudis recompensiva excogitare tributa. Ex cujus providissima celsitudine, liberalibus scienciis evocatis ad lucem, nostri studii lux virentis fulciminis splendet

[1] *nostre* MS.

indeficiens, cujusque indies[1] illustramur radiis. Unanimiter supplicamus intimius ut a Domino sit in celis dominacioni vestre illustrissime digna merces; et jam his novis exhillerati dominacionis vestre muneribus maximis, adoratricis vestre perpetue Universitatis nostre in[2] proficuum et decorem, gemine induimus alas confidencie, et intentissimo animo in attenuacione spirituum, cumulatis laboribus, studiis nos exponimus et tenemus; sperantes indubie quod nostre vinee[3] teneri ramunculi, serenitatis vestre[4] precelsa sub proteccione continuata, crescent, frondebunt et florebunt secuturis flores fructibus, ad Dei precipue gloriam: magnumque vestrum nomen divine ascribent memorie pariter et humane, in vestre dominacionis meritum cöeternum. Quam ad regni defensionem clerique subsidium longevet Deus in prosperis; et post hujus vie miliciam faciat in supernis in gloria triumphare. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo, undevicesimo die Maii.* Vestre serenitatis perpetua oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

91.

To the Duke of Gloucester. Fol. 34 b.

To you we always have recourse in our troubles. Discord, the stepmother of learning and virtue, hinders the advance promoted by your glorious gifts, for bachelors now claim to be called by the title of master; which neither statute nor custom have hitherto allowed, so that the authority of the Chancellor is brought into contempt, and the peace of the University disturbed.

Serenissimo principi Humfrido, duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, magno camerario Anglie, domino nostro magnifico et graciosissimo protectori. 1435.

Serenissime princeps, quociens necessitatibus vel incommodis aliquibus pregravamur precelsam ad vestram serenitatem, ut ad inflexibilem justicie columpnam recurrimus[5]; quem inter varios rerum eventus casusque fortuitos nostrum semper invenimus graciosissimum protectorem; cujus recolenda opera velut inoccidua lux meridiana, cujusque radiis illustramur, continue Minerve nos promovet ad secreta et virtutum omnium incrementa. Sed in hac studiorum via quedam discordia, scienciarum et virtutum noverca, in Universitate matre nostra nuper est orta, an debeant bacallarii, primum facultatis gradum obtinentes, in publicis proclamacionibus scolasticis appellari magistri; quod nec statuta neque dicte Universitatis nostre consuetudines fieri

[1] *indees* corrected MS. [2] *in* omitted ib. [3] *vine* ib. [4] *nostre* ib. [5] *recurrimus* omitted ib.

decreverant ab antiquo. Unde eadem nostra Universitas, scrutatis antiquis suis consuetudinibus, decrevit quod in posterum, in talibus scolasticis proclamacionibus in dicta Universitate nostra a suis servitoribus magistri non debeant appellari; cum tales cum citacionibus et mandato regio, a seculis inaudito, dictam nostram matrem vexant, inquietant et perturbant, privilegia consuetudinesque ejusdem temerarie violant, Cancellario et ejus commissario obedire contemnunt, in nostri studii discrimina inaudita. Hinc vestre dominacionis potentissime humillima oratrix mater nostra, vestre serenitatis brachio actenus suffulta, supplicat humiliter et devote quatenus dignetur vestra serenitas, in cujus capite se locavit magne sapiencie sedes, suis pro statutis[1] laudabilibusque consuetudinibus inexpugnabilem se ponere murum contra perturbantes matris nostre quietem, congrua pacis remedia providendo. Et presencium latoribus in dicendis fidem, quesumus, adhibere credulam dignemini cum favore. Et Deus, qui in tempore exaudit accepto, precelsam dominacionem vestram felicitet in hac vita, et in futuro cum superis faciat in gloria triumphare. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, nono die Augusti.* Vestre serenitatis perpetua oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

92.

To Master Gilbert Kymer.

We beg that you will use your influence with the Duke of Gloucester to obtain his assistance in restoring peace at Oxford.

1435. Egregio doctori, magistro Gilberto Kymare, decano de Wynbury[2] et thesaurario ecclesie Sarum:

Honoratissime magister et sensate prudencie domine, quem alterum Joseph credimus in curia principis; nostre matris honores et negocia piis desideriis amplexari. Cum in materia execrabilis ac intollerabilis perturbacionis pacis nostre Universitatis noviter exorta, vobis, ut credimus, satis nota, oratores nostros in presenti potentissimo principi, domino nostro duci, delegavimus, pro congruis in hac parte remediis obtinendis; firmissime sperantes quod, in mediacionibus vestris providissimis penes prefatum dominum nostrum serenissimum et graciosissimum protectorem, optatum habebimus pacis talentum, absque cujus excelso brachio non est nobis in studio spes aliqua in futuro; ideo reverenciam vestram nobis fieri unanimiter quesumus exorabilem in hac causa: et venerabilem personam vestram

[1] *et laudabilibusque* MS. [2] A mistake for *Wynburn.*

de bono in melius prosperari faciat ad prelacie culmina ipse Deus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo nono die Augusti.* Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

93.

To the Abbot of Glastonbury.

Fol. 35 a.

Commending Master John Spekynton, and desiring his promotion.

REVERENDO patri Nicholao, Abbati monasterii Glastonburiensis. 1435.

Reverende in Christo pater et domine, reverencias tanto patri debitas cum honore. Cum virtutum karismata, que vasis in honorem factis Spiritus infudit Altissimi, nequaquam debeant occultari sub modio, sed, ut populo luceant, in publicam venire noticiam, ad Dei gloriam et honorem; ea propter paternitati vestre, quam sincera dileccione prosequimur, carissimum confratrem nostrum, magistrum Johannem Spekynton, arcium magistrum, et nostre Universitatis providum procuratorem, virum utique laudabilibus vite et scienciarum meritis, conversacionis fragrancia aliisque virtutibus multipharie insignitum; cujus periciam et discrecionem per operis exercicium indies experimur, specialius quo valemus commendantes, vos attente deprecamur, quatenus ad eundem nostrum confratrem vester inflammetur affectus, favoris vestri et benevolencie radios ad sue exaltacionis comodum convertentes; ut vobis eo plenius ad graciarum teneamur acciones quo ipsum sincerius de vestri pectoris armario noverimus sic suffultum; ex dicto recensentes[1] philosophico illud pertinere ad tocius integritatem quod uni sue parti impenditur ad profectum. Paternitatem vestram inter suos sanctos infinita felicitate plenus collocari tribuat ipse Deus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, penultimo die Augusti.* Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

94.

To the Abbot and Chapter of Glastonbury.

To the same effect as the preceding letter.

VENERABILIBUS viris, Abbati et conventui monasterii Glastonburiensis. 1435.

Venerabiles domini, reverencias tam venerabili cetui cum honore. Quoniam Deo acceptabile credimus et racioni suavem odorem vene-

[1] *decetantes* MS.

rabilium personarum nostre Universitatis benevolis omnibus[1] quorum interest obnixius commendare; exemplo igitur matris filiorum Zebedei exponit se Universitas mater nostra pro digno suo filio, magistro Johanne Spekyngton, arcium magistro, et ejusdem nostre Universitatis procuratore provido, scienciarum et rerum experiencia nobiliter experto: pie supplicans[2] et devote quatinus sinceris matris precibus, suo pro filio deprecantis, vestris cum benevolenciis[3] dignemini suscipere commendatum, ut et sue matris preces sibi cum effectu profuisse senciat, et fidelis filii industria congruis honoribus premietur. Vestrum venerabilem conventum semper prosperari faciat Qui illius felicissimus[4] est aspectus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo penultimo die Augusti.* Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

95.

To the King.

The University owes its renown to the protection of your predecessors; and we are thankful that you tread in their steps; and we trust that, in pursuance of the same wise policy, you will, by the exercise of your royal prerogative of dispensing justice, put an end to the disturbances which now threaten to subvert our privileges.

1435. Serenissimo principi, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia regi Anglie et Francie, domino nostro metuendissimo.

Serenissime princeps, rex in eternum vive! sancte matris ecclesie et tocius reipublice defensator semper invicte! Et nomen et potenciam semper paveant inimici. Graciosissimorum principum progenitorum vestrorum (qui nostro supplici interventu celesti perfruantur beatitudine!) strenuissimos et memorabiles actus recolentes—sub quorum magnificis et eterna memoria dignis proteccionibus a primevo vestra Universitas semper et inconcusse hactenus communita in famosa laudis precellencia floruit et honore—precipue in hoc Altissimum collaudamus, quod talem regno providerat successorem, in quo paterne probitatis insignia et suorum progenitorum inclitudo serenissima plenissime conquiescunt. Et quia adfluens regia celsitudo immense laudis preconiis attollitur, cum ex ipsa ad singulos justicie et rectitudinis plenitudo dirivetur, et neminem relinquat expertem sue gracie regalie: hinc vestra Universitas mater nostra coram precelsa majestate regia suum exponit merorem presentibus interclusum. Quoniam igitur, nos informante scriptura, rex sedens in solio dissipat omne malum, supplicamus humiliter quo valemus quatenus vestra potentissima majestas caritatis dignetur intuitu hujusmodi abusionis malum, quod brigosa et proterva

[1] *in omnibus* MS. [2] *supplicas* ib. [3] *benevolens ciis* ib. [4] *felecissimus* ib.

elacio quorumdam in dicte Universitatis vestre discriminosam perturbacionem confovet, gracioso et regali remedio dissipare; sic quod vestre Universitatis privilegia, statuta, et deliberaciones ad tranquillitatem studii illesa in suo robore permaneant et virtute; violatoresque eorum ad regiam vestram presenciam sint venire coacti legaliter castigandi; **Fol. 35 b.** ut in eadem vestra Universitate fiat pax hominibus et Deo gloria in excelsis. Et metuendissima regia majestas in felicissimorum incremento successuum imperet, prosperetur et regnet, quesumus, in longevum. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Octobris die quinto.* Vestre celsitudinis humillima oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

96.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

You are our harbour of refuge in every trouble; and for your protection and magnificent gifts we are ever thankful, and daily remember you in our prayers. We herewith inclose a statement of the circumstances which at this present disturb our peace, and entreat you to check the presumption of those who are the cause of them.

Serenissimo principi, domino duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, **1435.** magno camerario Anglie, suo graciosissimo protectori.

Serenissime princeps, cui, tanquam humillima membra precipuo capiti et protectori, offerimus omnis devocionis tributa, utinam vestre oratricis preces piis oculis ut solito contemplari. Quociens urgeat necessitas aut deposcat utilitas, ut ad consuetum refugii portum, ad vestram dominacionem recurrimus[1] pro succursu. O quantum tantille[2] obligamur tanto principi, cujus vivens memoria cordibus nostris infigitur, cujus prosperitas inclitissima votis cotidianis Deo presentatur! qui nos magnificis vallavit thesauris, ubi suorum donorum memoriale notabile lucet presentibus et futuris; nostreque iminenti ruine manum semper supposuit protectricem, et in fervore sui spiritus minas hominum contempnens ab emulis nos defendit: que omnia, nostro supplici interventu, premiat cuncta Potens! Sed jam iteratis vicibus vestre potentissime dominacioni vestra Universitas et oratrix fidelissima suam exponit tribulacionem presentibus interclusam; supplicans spiritualiter et devote, quatinus vester potentissimus principatus intuitu dignetur caritatis hujusmodi abusionis, perturbacionis, et temeritatis malum, quod brigosa et cervicosa quorumdam presumpcio in dicte Universitatis perturbacionem confovet, gracioso remedio dissipare; ne perversorum

[1] *resurrimus* MS. [2] *cancille* or *tantille* MS. The word probably should be *tantilli*, which occurs in a similar passage in another epistle, cf. ep. 220.

tanta temeritas effrenis aditum pandat injuriis, et vestre oratricis studium destruat et evellat; sed sue deliberaciones, statuta et privilegia illesa ad studii tranquillitatem sui roboris firmitatem habeant et virtutis, eorumque violatores refrenentur et penis debitis infligantur, ad Dei honorem et vestre dominacionis illustrissime meritum sine fine. Et gloriosus Deus, in cujus manu sunt vota principum, vestre serenitatis potenciam sic dirigat in terris ut inter potestates angelicas presidere finaliter mereatur. *Scriptum Oxonie, ut supra in proxima.* Vestre serenitatis specialissima oratrix Universitas, &c.

97.

To the Archbishop of York.

The father's renown is spread abroad when he mercifully hears the prayers of his sons. Our mother the University therefore, proud of so distinguished a son, who does not turn a deaf ear to the prayer of the mother who suckled him, with confidence lays before you her present distress, begging that the guilty causes thereof may be sufficiently punished.

1435. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Johanni, Dei gracia Eboracensi Archiepiscopo, primati Anglie.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, Universitatis nostre honor et splendor, sub cujus proteccionis sensata prudencia nostre necessitudinis negocia piis favoribus amplexari; paterni honoris gloria tunc dilatescit in orbe, et flos immarcidus sue fame dignissime laudis fragrancia redolescit in populo, cum humillium justo precamini[1] filiorum favorabilis sue exaudicionis januas benigne reserat clemens pater. Unde Universitas mater nostra sue vires induit confidencie, internius exultans de tante honoracionis filio, qui, cum materne deprecacionis pulsetur instanciis, a sue gratuite recordacionis non abradet registro ubera nectarea que sugebat: sed materni honoris statum prosperum in sue innate gratitudinis statera ponderans, materne precis pro refugio supplicantis saciavit affectum in suis tribulacionibus, angustiis et pressuris. Quia igitur in Universitate nostra quedam brigosa contencio nuper incepit, (quin verius, quod dolenter referimus, cum scriptura nata est malicia, in diebus nostris,) cujus contencionis
Fol. 36 a. compendii causa presentibus clauditur brevis tenor; supplicamus unanimiter tam potenti patri, ut[2] transgressores paveant, et quod

[1] *precamine* MS. Cf. ep. 104. [2] *quem ut* MS.

tam enormia delicta absque correspondente pena non transeant impunita; et taliter ut sub paterna proteccione graciosa, in cujus capite admirabilis regnat sapiencia, quam reverentur[1] naciones varie, dicta mater nostra Universitas more solito virtuosis scienciis et fame sue preconiis virescere valeat: et clarissimis documentis, privilegiis suis, statutis, laudabilibus consuetudinibus et deliberacionibus, ad quietem studii, scienciarum honorem, et graduum distinccionem editis, inviolabiliter observatis, et ejus pacis perturbatores, exortatores seu eorum fautores penis debitis castigentur. Et paternitatem vestram reverendissimam, post hujus viatricis vie cursum, inter supremos antistites[2] collocet Jesus Christus. *Scriptum Oxonie, &c.* Vestre paternitatis reverendissime oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

98.

To the Bishop of Winchester.

Your wisdom and virtues of world-wide fame comfort our hearts, and encourage us to lay before you our present difficulties, and beg that a suitable remedy may be applied. We enclose a statement of the facts.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia Anglie Cardinali, episcopo Wyntoniensi, domino nostro et graciosissimo protectori. 1435.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine illustrissime, pro cujus prosperitatis felicitate votiva continuo nostrarum precum tributa humillima penes Deum. Concors virtutum preclaritas et admirabilis sapiencie insignia, que excelsa de dominacione vestra devulgantur in omnem terram, mentem oratricis vestre Universitatis matris nostre mira suavitate reficiunt, et ad eandem humiliter exorandam alte sue bonitatis allectivis radiis nos inducunt. Cum nuper quedam tediosa discordia, corrumpens studiorum noverca, in vestra contigit[3] Universitate, cujus tenor brevitatis causa presentibus includitur; ad vestram igitur dominacionem, in cujus capite stupenda posuit suam sapiencia sedem, confugimus, ipsi inheremus, ipsique preces effundimus humillimas et devotas, eoque securius preces precibus superaddimus, quo de solita dominacione vestra, in omnibus honores nostros et comoda concernentibus[4], summa duximus fiducia confidendum; quatenus, proviso super tantis excessibus oportuno remedio, dignetur tantus noster pater et dominus graciosissimus in finibus nostris ponere pacem, tantoque positam robore solidare, ne pusillum gregem predicte Universitatis

[1] *reveruntur* MS. [2] *suppremos antistates* ib. [3] *contegit* ib. [4] *concernentibus* is added over the line, ib.

specialem vestre salutis memorem infestacio inimica tormentet; sed vestre graciose proteccionis respirans in gracia, suorum statutorum, deliberacionum, et laudabilium consuetudinum libertati pristine se gaudeat restitutum, et pacis ejusdem perturbatores juris remediis infligantur, ut in pace studeant et proficiant filii pacis interminis inflammati in laudibus tanti patris. Quem ad naviculae fidei munimen, honoris pulchritudinem, et ad Universitatis vestre, matris nostre continuanda solacia prosperari faciat Deus pacis. *Scriptum Oxonie, &c.* Vestre reverendissime paternitatis specialissima oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

99.

Fol. 36 b. **To the Earl of Stafford.**

Justice is one of the most glorious attributes of rulers, and they are intrusted with the sword for its maintenance. As the lesser animals before the lion, so the turbulent people flee before the face of the sword. We pray that you will check the cause of our present troubles in its commencement, for a spark may soon become a conflagration, and the very pastimes of children indicate the tendency of national character.

1435. Illustrissimo principi, domino nostro, comiti Staffordie.

Illustrissime princeps, quem ob graciose dominacionis benevolenciam ad nostram Universitatem specialiter revereri tenemur, omnis devocionis nostre tributa humillima cum honore. Cum inter ceteras reipublice curas nullum opus nomen principis excellencius attollit preconiis, quam quo pacis et justicie unitas observetur, et pacis inflatos contemptores castigando humiliet potencia militaris, (ad hoc enim magnus consilii Angelus terrigenis reddens pacem principibus commisit gladium,) quo, justo metu improbos terrente, innocentes subditos pax firmior tueretur; et sicut leonis vestigia pertimescunt animalia singula, sic inimica infestacio plebeica paveat potenciam principum, et a facie gladii fugiat ire sue; et[1] quia brigosa contencio nuper commovit Universitatem nostram ex quorumdam elacionis fumo, ut patet infra presentes compendii causa inclusum, igitur ad dominacionem vestram, ut ad potentissimum brachium et securam nostri naufragii tabulam, unanimiter recurrimus pro succursu et tuicione quietis nostri studii; supplicantes humiliter et devote quatinus subjiciantur colla superborum, qui dicunt '*linguam nostram magnificabimus, quis noster dominus est?*' ne scintilla volatilis maliciae exsurgat in incendium et guttula grandescat rapidum in torrentem. A pristinis enim patribus ut

[1] *et* omitted in MS.

manuale spectaculum nostre Universitatis tranquillitas habebatur, quod processisse videtur ex illo Platonis dicto '*per jocos pueriles sciantur regni prospera vel adversa.*' Intuitu igitur caritatis dignetur dominacio vestra potentissima ad hujusmodi enormium malorum enervacionem apponere remedium graciosum. Et eo confidencius illustrissime dominacioni vestre preces precibus multiplicamus, quo in illustrissimo sanguine vestro, domino nostro Cancellario, nostra Universitas honoratur; firmissime tenentes quod non potest maliciosis adversancium conatibus occumbere quod tanti principis potencia decrevit sustinere. Nostris privilegiis statutis et deliberationibus in potencia vestra conservatis illesis, tam proterva juvenum delicta, non minus in hortationibus[1] seu fautoribus quam in transgressoribus, non transeant impunita: et Universitas mater nostra vestre dominacionis oratrix in pace lactet suos filios in virtutibus et scienciis, ad ecclesie et regni proficuum et honorem. Dominacionem vestram illustrissimam sic dirigat in terris Princeps pacis ut finaliter principare valeat in excelsis. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Octobris die, &c.* Vestre dominacionis oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

100.

To the Earl of Warwick.

Fol. 37 a.

To the same effect as the preceding letter.

ILLUSTRISSIMO principi domino nostro, comiti Warwici. 1435.

Illustrissime princeps, quem tam ob militarem[2] strenuitatem quam ob admirabilis sapiencie[3] splendorem reverentur naciones varie, ad regis, regni, et communitatis munimen et decorem continuo prosperari. Cum inter ceteras reipublice curas nullum opus magis facit nomen principis attolli preconiis, quam quo pacis et justicie unitas observatur, et inflatos pacis contemptores castigando humiliat potencia militaris,—ad hoc enim magnus consilii Angelus terrigenis reddens pacem principibus commisit gladium,—quo, justo metu improbos terrente, innocentes subditos pax firmior tueretur, et sicut leonis vestigia pertimescunt animalia singula, sic inimica infestacio plebeica paveat potenciam principum et a facie[4] arcus fugiat ire sue; et quia brigosa dissensio nuper commovit nostram Universitatem ex quorundam elacionis fumo, ut patet infra presentes compendii causa inclusum, unanimiter igitur recurrimus, pro succursu et tuicione quietis nostri

[1] *hortatoribus?* [2] *militaris* MS. [3] This word nearly obliterated in MS., but probably *sapiencie.* [4] *faciat* MS.

studii, ad metuendissimum dominum nostrum regem, qui, ut caput nobile debilibus membris condescendens, graciosum se prebeat clamoribus oppressorum, et ad sui consilii apicem, ut ad dominacionem vestram, supplicantes humiliter et devote quatenus subjiciantur colla superborum, qui dicunt '*linguam nostram magnificabimus, quis noster dominus est?*' ne scintilla volatilis exurgat in incendium, et guttula grandescat rapidum in torrentem. A pristinis enim patribus ut manuale spectaculum nostre Universitatis tranquillitas habebatur, quod processisse credimus ex illo Platonis dicto, '*per jocos pueriles sciantur regni prospera vel adversa.*' Igitur intuitu caritatis dignetur dominacio vestra ad hujusmodi malorum enervacionem apponere remedium graciosum, sic quod tam enormia delicta[1] juvenum, non minus in hortatoribus seu[2] fautoribus quam in transgressoribus, absque pena acida non transeant impunita; et Universitas mater nostra vestre dominacionis oratrix in pace lactet filios suos in virtutibus et scienciis, ad ecclesie et regni proficuum et decorem. Dominacionem vestram illustrissimam sic dirigat in terris Princeps pacis, ut finaliter principari valeat in excelsis. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Octobris die, &c.* Vestre dominacionis oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

101.

To the Archbishop of York.

1435. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Johanni, Dei gracia Eboracensi Archiepiscopo, Anglie primati, nostro domino specialissimo.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, Universitatis nostre honor et splendor, sub cujus proteccionis sensata prudencia nostre necessitudinis negocia piis favoribus amplexari: paterni honoris gloria tunc dilatescit in orbe et flos immarcidus sue fame dignissime laudis fragrancia redolescit in populum . . .[3]

Testimonial letter issued for Master Philipp Morres.

1435. Littera testimonialis magistri Philippi Morresch[4], professoris[5] in sacra theologia; *datum in nostra congregacionis domo, undecimo die mensis Octobris anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo quinto*, et est secundum antiquam formam.

[1] *delcta* MS. [2] *se* ib. [3] This fragment here ends, but it is verbatim the same as ep. 97. [4] *Morresch* corrected over the line to *Morres* MS. [5] *Professori* ib.

To the Dean and Chapter of S. Patrick's, Dublin[1]. Fol. 37 b.

Having heard of your favour shown to our brother Master Philipp Norrys, we heartily thank you, for you have admitted to your society a virtuous and learned man and an unwearied preacher.

VENERABILIBUS viris, Decano et capitulo ecclesie cathedralis S. Patricii Dublinie. 1435.

Venerabiles domini, prospera successuum incrementa tam celebri cetui cum honore. Quia fidedigne relacionis fama nostras delegavit ad aures quanta gratuita et bene merita vestre dileccionis insignia carissimo confratri nostro, magistro Philippo Norrys, sacre theologie egregio professori contulit liberalitas vestri cordis; ac hec vivaci contemplantes memoria, ad reddendas graciarum acciones merito excitamur, quas unanimiter reddimus vestro cetui reverendo; ex dicto recensentes philosophico hoc ad integritatem tocius pertinere quod sue parti impenditur ad profectum. O quam felix vestra intencio, quando virum tam excellentis sciencie, conversacionis honeste et humilitatis speculum, sonoramque sancte predicacionis tubam, que non raucescit in ostendendo plebi sua scelera, vestro cetui sociastis! pro quo facto firmissime tenemus meritorie laudis[2] preconium apud Deum et homines meruisse; nec desistimus de fiducia, quam penes vos jam recipimus, eundem nostrum confratrem vestre venerabili cetui amplius commendare, ut quod gratuite dileccionis vinculo eidem recognovimus inceptum, nostrarum precum interventu perseveranter proficere in posterum sensiamus. Et vestrum venerabilem cetum in prosperitate votiva preservare dignetur bonitas summi Dei. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Octobris die undecimo.* Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

102.

To the Bishop of S. David's.

A similar letter to that addressed to the Archbishop of York[3].

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri et domino, Domino Thome, Dei gracia Menevensi episcopo, nostro domino speciali. 1435.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, sub vestre paterne proteccionis sensata prudencia nostre necessitudinis negocia piis favoribus amplexari. 'Paterni honoris,' &c., *ut supra, in epistola*

[1] This letter is not numbered, and is in a peculiar, irregular hand, quite unlike that of any of the near preceding or succeeding letters. Probably it has been inserted later on a folio left partially blank. [2] *et laudis* MS. [3] See ep. 97 *supra*.

missa Archiepiscopo Eboracensi, usque ibi, 'brevis tenor.' Moveat vos igitur, unanimiter rogitamus, communis scienciarum utilitas, moveat vos earumdem jacture crudelitas, moveat vos pacifici studii instar aque immote limpiditas, et vos moveat quod Universitas mater nostra vestrum auxilium tanquam potentis patris manibus expansis implorat, quatinus sub vestre proteccionis abiete erectissima humiles sui ramun-
Fol. 38 a. culi frondeant, floreant et fructiferant, nec procella in sui indicium[1] aut exterminium debacando prevaleat: sed sine fluctuacione et a morsu fere pessime preservetur agnina simplicitas sue prolis, statuta, privilegia, deliberaciones et consuetudines, ad quietem studii et ad scienciarum honorem et[2] graduum distinccionem suum robur obtineant et virtutem, per auxilium, favorem et prudenciam tanti patris. Quem prospere dirigat summi Patris sapiencia, ad nostra continuanda solacia et ad ecclesie continuum fulcimentum. *Scriptum, &c.* Vestre paternitatis oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

103.

To the Bishop of Salisbury.

As shipwrecked sailors to a raft, so we betake ourselves to you as our refuge. Suffer not, we entreat you, the mother that nursed you to be destroyed by the malice of her adversaries.

1435. Reverendissimo in Christo patri, Domino Roberto, Dei gracia Sarum. episcopo, nostro domino specialissimo et conservatori.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, utinam matris nostre tristiciam in tanti patris providencia aboleri. '*Magnificat anima nostra Dominum et exultavit,*' cum in tribulacione nostra de vestra graciosa paternitate nobis ad memoriam occurrit; cujus nobilem juventutem Universitas mater nostra solidissime sue dulcedinis per ubera educavit; et gemine confidencie alas induentes ad dominacionem vestram, tanquam naufragii tabulam, in nostre matris mesticia supplicando fiducialiter convolamus; quatinus in potente et graciosa dominacione vestra nostre matris honor in suis privilegiis, statutis, et matura sua deliberacione nuper edita, conservetur illesus; cujus deliberacionis, et ob eandem perturbacionis, tenor brevitatis causa infra presentes clauditur; sperantes indubie in vestre paternitatis prudencia remedia congrua obtinere. Credimus etenim quod non potest maliciose adversancium conatibus honor maternus occumbere, quem scilicet

[1] *injuriam* or *prejudicium*? [2] *et* omitted in MS.

tanti patris dextera decreverit sustinere. Intuitu igitur caritatis nos contra debacancium turbines pio dignemini consolari munimine, ne insolencia effrenis nimium invalescat; sed hujusmodi rebellium protervitas et contumacia feriatur penis jurium, quos ad vivendi regulam lenitas non emollit; ut oratrix vestra mater nostra in pace lactet suos filios, qui de tanti patris favoribus et remediis exultantibus animis Deum laudent. Et Deus, autor pacis et amator, felicitet dies vestros ad commissum vobis regimen pastorale. *Scriptum, &c.* Vestre paternitatis oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

104.

To the Bishop of London.

Your incorporation is a source of exultation and confidence, and we trust in your aid to repress the subversive efforts of those who would destroy our privileges and confound the distinctions of degrees in the University.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Roberto, Dei gracia Londoniensi episcopo, nostre Universitatis conservatori speciali. 1435.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, omnimodas reverencias tante paternitati debitas cum honore. Paterni honoris gloria tunc dilatescit in orbe, et flos immarcidus sue fame dignissime laudis fragrancia redolescit in populo, dum justo precamini humilium filiorum favorabilis sue exaudicionis januas benigne reserat clemens pater. Unde Universitas mater nostra vires sue induit confidencie, internius exultans de tanto patre ex puris omnium votis duodecimo die instantis mensis sibi incorporato in sua solemni congregacione; et requiescit in jubilo sub potente brachio tanti sui conservatoris ab apostolica sede sibi deputato; cui humiliter exponit sui meroris motiva in hac forma,—Quia brigosa contencio nuper in eadem pullulabat, (sed verius, quod Fol. 38 b. dolenter referrimus, nata est malicia in diebus nostris,) cujus dissencionis presentibus includitur brevis tenor, ad vestram igitur potentem paternitatem preces effundimus humillimas et devotas, quatinus dignemini, caritatis intuitu et vestre conservacionis officio, nos contra debacancium turbines pio munimine consolari; ne insolencia effrenis nimium invalescat, sed contumacia rebellium penis jurium infligatur, quos ad vivendi regulam lenitas non emollit: sic quod vestra oratrix mater nostra sub potenti jam vestra conservacione more solito virtutibus, scienciis, et fame sue preconiis virescere valeat, et clarissimis documentis ad ecclesie et regni proficuum et honorem, suis privilegiis,

statutis, consuetudinibus laudifluis et deliberacionibus, ad quietem studii, scienciarum honorem et graduum distinccionem editis, sicut[1] actinus inconcusse fuerunt usque presens, inviolabiliter observatis. Et vestram paternitatem, ad conservacionis nostre felicis continuanda solacia, conservet in prosperis Dominus Jesus Christus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, &c.* Vestre paternitatis oratrix humillima Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

105.

Testimonial letter for Master Thomas Gascoigne.

1435. LITTERA testimonialis magistri Thome Gascoigne, sacre theologie doctoris, sub antiqua forma cum ista clausula speciali;—'formamque suam integram et regenciam in artibus et in sacra theologia in eadem Universitate exercuit laudabiliter et complevit.' *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, ultimo die Octobris anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo sexto.*

106.

Fol. 39 a.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

The University once so prosperous is reduced to the greatest misery. So deadly is the wound from which she suffers, by the insubordination and violence of the ill-disposed, that lectures have ceased and a complete ruin of education is imminent. History shows that where learning is encouraged the state prospers, and though these our troubles are but among the youth of this University, they are an index of national feeling.

1435. SERENISSIMO principi domino, duci Glaucestrie[2], comiti Pembrochie, magno camerario Anglie, suo graciosissimo protectori.

Serenissime princeps, exordium cogimur depromere lacrimosum et tristis narracionis seriem miscere amaritudinibus et lamentis; quia vestre serenitatis humillima oratrix Universitas Oxoniensis, nuper secunda filia Syon, que inter ceteras fidei filias preclaruit formosissima, nunc lugubris luget in montibus et in convallibus lacrimatur; nequissime attracta ad contradiccionis aquas, ad serviendum in latere et luto et palea, insolita servitute, ubi quondam floruit ut regina; nam eam discoloravit nephanda malignorum oppressio, qui nostra statuta et consuetudines necessarias ac laudabiles, ex papalibus privilegiis et

[1] *sic* MS. [2] *Glavcestrie* ib.

a vestris progenitoribus, Anglie regibus[1], in suis chartis et confirmacionibus sibi concessa ad perpetuum studencium quietem,—ut inibi studentes continuata quiete in fortes ecclesie catholice columpnas, regis et regni, suis in dandis sanis consiliis, excrevisse poterint,—contemnunt, rapiunt et dirimunt in eadem; in domini nostri regis et summi pontificis contemptum, dicteque Universitatis dedecus[2], opprobrium et exterminium ultimatum; in tantum quod dicta Universitas, a lectura compulsa desistere et ab omnibus actibus scolasticis et studiis, finem sibi proponens lugubrem[3] imponere, in ululantis confusionis vultu dies plangit et miserias[4] lamentatur. O quid facerent fluctuantes in procelloso pelago si navicula dissolvatur? quomodo staret basilica corruente columpna? quo pergentes in tenebris tenderent si lux extinguatur? Nam, teste Deo, tanta iminet nostre matris livida et mortifera plaga, quod in presenti dissoluta et dispersa corruisset, si non in vestro potentissimo brachio sue spei ancoram affixisset: quare calamitosa prostrata ad tante serenitatis pedes, ubi in adversis et suis miseriis solebat habere refugium, clamitat pro defensionis succursu, et exclamat ut audiatur[5] a superis et a vestre potencie auribus vox clamantis, ne succumbat misere presidiis orphanata. O utinam vestra dignetur serenitas reminisci, quod scienciarum studia ab inicio, in quavis regione contingencia glorie ejusdem maximam excellenciam solebant presagire futurum. Numquid Romana olim potestas, dum scienciarum studia in suo florebant senatu, totum orbem suo imperio victoriose tenebat subjectum? Numquid et illa Grecia, dum in ea philosophorum crevere studia, universe telluri omnique orbis climati spargendo sui cinguli[6] militaris honorem, de suis hostibus continuum reportavit triumphum? In quibus, dissolutis studiis, non modicus marcor floridi honoris et victorie protenus esse legitur consecutus. Ideo a priscis[7] patribus tranquillitas nostre Universitatis Oxoniensis ut manuale spectaculum[8] habebatur, secundum illam Platonis sentenciam, '*per joca sciuntur puerilia regni prospera et adversa.*' Igitur pro Deo exsurgere dignetur potencia tanti principis invincibilis, ad hujusmodi inauditorum malorum enervacionem, sic quod inimica infestacio plebeica paveat potenciam principis, sicut leonis vestigia pertimescunt animalia singula, et a facie gladii fugiat ire sue; taliterque compescantur iniqui, qui iniqua et execranda committere non verentur; ut vestre serenitatis oratrix sub proteccione vestra, sicut sub illustrissimorum principum vestrorum progenitorum hactenus communita, in pace lactet filios suos in scienciis et virtutibus, ad ecclesie, fidei et regni decorem, proficuum et honorem.

[1] *vestrorum progenitorum Anglie regum* MS. [2] *dedicus* ib. [3] *lugubrem* ib. [4] *miseries* ib. [5] *audeatur* ib. [6] *singuli* ib. [7] *prisciis* ib.
[8] Perhaps one would expect *speculum*, but see epp. 99 and 100.

Et presencium latori nostre Universitatis procuratori, aures gracie et graciose credencie, in dicendis pro parte nostra, et in nostra lamentabili ruina prebere dignetur vestra serenitas et potentissima celsitudo. Quam sic dirigat in terris Princeps pacis, ut finaliter principari valeat in excelsis. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre mestose congregacionis domo, septimo die Decembris.* Vestre serenitatis specialissima oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

107.

Fol. 39 b.

To the King.

Degrees are the reward of students; and it is as necessary to preserve the distinctions between them as between the various ranks in human society. To call bachelors by the name of master is in fact absurd; and, though we have permitted bachelors in Canon and Civil laws to be so styled by their servants and in their own houses, they are not content, but by open violence and turbulent meetings, and lastly by an appeal to the court of Arches bring the University into contempt, and stir up strife between other faculties; in manifest violation of our statutes which have been guaranteed by your royal authority. If bachelors in Laws are to be styled masters, they will not care to proceed to the superior degree, and every one will prefer that faculty in which success is so easy.

1435. [1] SERENISSIME princeps; rex in eternum vive! Christianissimi principes gloriosissimique reges vestri progenitores nobilissimi, vias justicie et veritatis universas, politice direccioni sue monarchie accomodas in Christo, doceri et cognosci ingenti animi fervore zelantes, ad singulare incrementum fidei orthodoxe, virtutum et scienciarum, almam Universitatem Oxoniensem super studium et gignasium quinque egregiarum facultatum; legum, videlicet, decretorum, medicine, arcium et theologie, necnon unice liberalis sciencie—supple [2] grammatice—una et super graduaciones in eisdem pro earum auctenticacione fiendas, divina quadam inspiracione divinitus fundavere; quatinus inibi in iis studentes, secundum suas in eis professiones, braviorum vice gradibus honoris, nominibusque ipsis correspondentibus, tandem solemniter decorarentur. In quarum grammatica, gradu, ex more vestre jam dicte Universitatis, sub unico existente, utpote magistratu; et in singulis predictarum facultatum bifarius gradus, scilicet inferior, puta bacalariatus, quasi semigradus, et superior, ut magistratus, in eadem Universitate consueverunt haberi; quorum utique superiore in quacunque facultate

[1] The MS. is quite clear throughout this curious letter, and the sense sufficiently plain; but, as is usually the case in this collection, wherever the handwriting is more clerkly, the sentences are confused or imperfect.

[2] *suple* MS.

premissa quis redimitus, tanquam in eadem prestantissimus merito et effectu magister existit a vestra prefata Universitate nominatus, insignia cum auctoritate sue magistrali preeminencie optinens; appropriato[1] habitu, videlicet magistrali vestiri pellura, in eo uti ordinarie, pro forma posse legere et disputare, scolares habere, bacularios presentare et magistros creare, consiliis Universitatis pro suo voto emittendo interesse, necnon nonnullos actus bacularios negatos ex sui magistratus prerogativa celebres agere potest; ubi nullus nempe inferiore gradu, in quavis prenominatarum facultatum honoratus, occasione sui baculariatus magister existit, nec a vestra memorata Universitate magister, sed bacularius et scolaris, quoquo modo nominabatur; veluti nulla prerecitatorum, magistris[2] alicujus antedicte facultatis pertinencium, habet quomodolibet exercere. Ob quod ab Universitate vestra prefata, cujus mos antiquissimus est tantummodo illos, qui ibidem[3] in grammatica seu aliqua dictarum facultatum apicem attigerunt magistralem, nominari magistros, propter repugnanciam veritati et racioni, nullus occasione baculariatus, cujus pretextu revera nemo magistratu insignitur, poterit vere appellari magister—Bacularium, inquam, gracia sui gradus appellari magistrum in sua sciencia—prestantissimum nomine sonante magistri—minus prestantem prestantissimum, principem comitem, dominum armigerum, militem inferiorem superiorem, et parem imparem nuncupari existit: quod profecto, propter suam malam sequelam in ordinem politici regiminis subvertendo, contradiccionemque inclusam nullus sapiencium admitteret. Unde vestra premissa Universitas bacularium, in proclamacionibus publicis in scolis pro sua forma legenda habitis, magistrum nequit approbare, nisi tale approbaret oppositum in adjecto; videlicet quod magister talis, qui non est magister, tale pro sua forma leget volumen ut sit magister, quod nimirum propter suam ridiculosam impossibilitatem, Universitati cuique approbare foret absurdissimum. Verumptamen vestra Universitas prefata bacularios in decretis et jure civili, qui nullatenus sunt magistri, infra suum precinctum a personis singularibus, ut a suis servitoribus et aliis quibuslibet volentibus, nominari magistros prout consueverunt, juxta vestri graciosi brevis nobis nuper missi directi preceptum, libentissime tolerat et tolerabit. De quo, cum nonnulli bacularii in decretis et jure civili vestre Universitatis prenominate, plus nomen honoris quam ejus meritum amplectentes, minime contentantur nisi quatenus ultra hoc, tam ab Universitate prefata quam in proclamacionibus in scolis pro magistratu optinendo publice factis, magistri amodo appellentur: occasione cujus metu et robore id extorquere satagentes, quod veri-

[1] *appropriata* MS. [2] *magistri* ib. [3] *illos qui ibidem*: these words repeated in the MS.

tate suadente ipsis racio[1] denegat, nedum vestre[2] Universitatis studium, vi armata litigiosis eorum conventiculis discidiosisque insultibus indefesse modo enormi subvertunt. Itaque a[3] decreto ejusdem Universitatis, in negocio predicto mere temporali, secundum nostrorum jurium
Fol. 40 a. exigenciam juste et rite lato, ad officialem curie 'de arcubus' appellantes, eandem vestram Universitatem, in non modicum prejudicium vestre corone, nostrorumque jurium a vestra regia celsitudine confirmatorum, illuc molestissime infestando in judicium traxerunt; ubi, judice testibusque singulis in ipsa causa receptis, dicte Universitatis adversariis et partibus manifeste existentibus, videlicet decretistis civilistis, nullo juris ordine observato, omnique nobis denegato beneficio juris, in despectum vestre Universitatis predicte actenus inauditum, cum arrogantissimo boatu infaustissime et iniquissime est processum. Adeo quod non solius prefate cause audicione illi contentati, quinimo dissensiones dissencionibus cumulando, causam preeminencie inter doctores medicine et juris civilis, (in preexcellentissimum arbitrium[4] et laudum potentissimi principis et invictissimi domini recolendissime memorie regis Henrici quinti, vestri serenissimi progenitoris, antecessorumque suorum, per unanimem cetum magistrorum vestre Universitatis prefate alias compromissam,) in vestre regalie contemptum, in eadem curia et admiranda inestimabili frontosa presumpcione decidere usurparunt; jura nostra, vestra incircumscripta auctoritate roborata, ibidem ad eorum placitum interpretando, contra vestre dicte Universitatis libertates, cui soli, ex vestrorum progenitorum graciosa concessione, propria jura ab ipsa edicta vel prescripta declarare et mutare incumbit. Unde ad tantum et tam graviter intus et exterius, ut prefertur, vestra prescripta Universitas infestatur, quod, solita in ea cessante doctrina, in non pauco numero scolares, longe pocius prefate infestacionis intestine et forinsece, quam malignissime cladis illuc instantis formidine, illam pene vacuam dimittunt pariter et desolatam. Quoniam—internius lamentando referimus—de verisimili studii vestri cessacio appropinquat, nisi vestra regia magnificencia in predicta excessus et gravamina, in eandem Universitatem illata, debite corrigendo sibi celerius oportunum imparciatur auxilium. Quas ob res, magnifice princeps potentissimeque domine, vestram inclitissimam clementissime quesumus majestatem nostris devotis et obnixis precibus exoratam haberi; quatenus antedicto officiali de arcubus de dictis causis non audiendo ulterius, neque aliquam sentenciam in eis earumve altera

[1] *ratio*: this word is partly erased MS. [2] *premisse* added over the line MS. [3] *a* blotted in MS. [4] Another confusion apparently—perhaps it should be read *preëxcellentissimo arbitrio et laudo*, but there is no abbreviation in the writing here.

latam execucioni aliquatenus demandando; sed, si quid in eisdem prius attemptaverit, revocando, vestris graciosis litteris sigillo vestre cancellarie signatis prohibere dignetur; et post hoc easdem causas vestrum per consilium maturius auditas, pro pacis nostre optate speciali reformacione celeriter determinare, ad quod nos porro vocatos fuisse ex vestri brevis tenore aliquamdiu sumus, ut decuit, prestolati; aut saltem ad minus, hujusmodi vestri prohibicione prehabita, propter jurium vestre[1] Universitatis memorate indempnitatem, dictas causas, ut sua privilegia exigunt, determinacioni ejusdem Universitatis remitti predictosque in juribus bacallarios, decreto ab eisdem in ea parte ferendo, omni contumacia cessante, vestro regio mandato parere compellatis; benignissime princeps illustrissimeque domine: specialiter advertentes, quod si solummodo in juribus bachularii ab Universitate predicta aut in puplicis proclamacionibus, ut ferventer exoptant, appellarentur magistri, nullarum aliarum facultatum bacularíis magistris nuncupatis, singuli scolares ibidem ceterarum facultatum, studio prorsus deserto, ad jura adiscenda continue convolarent; necnon eciam ipsi jurium bacularii, bacularíatu in eisdem adepto, se ad honorem, quam ultra procedere frivolum foret, venisse putantes, protinus studio derelicto amplius adiscere non curabunt; et veri magistri nulla reputacione habebuntur, in vestri generalis studii predicti gravissimum dispendium, et dicte Universitatis dedecus perpetuum. Ob quod, si hujusmodi prefati bacularii in decretis et jure civili, ut prefertur, pro premissis transgressionibus excessibus et contumeliis, in vestram regiam celsitudinem vestramque antedictam Universitatem commissis, hac vice debite non castigentur; aliis grassari volentibus, quotienscunque determinacio Universitatis, quamtumcunque rationabilis, displicens eis emerserit, cedet in exemplum in eandem Universitatem taliter continuo debacandi. Vestram justissimam inclitudinem tam recte predictorum flagicia castigare, ac tam feliciter vestrum utrumque regere regnum Omnipotens largiatur, ut post hujus vite cursum diadema eterne glorie consequatur. *Scriptum nostre congregacionis domo, quinto decimo die Decembris*[2].

108.

To the Duke of Gloucester. Fol. 40 b.

The scholars of Devon and Cornwall carried away an image of S. Peter from a parish church and placed it on the high altar at S. Frideswydes, inviting other scholars to attend mass there. On being required to desist the Law-students refused and, in the end, serious rioting

[1] *vestri* MS. [2] No subscription.

has ensued; by which sentences of imprisonment of one of the culprits and banishment of another are rendered ineffectual, and a general collapse of authority prevails.

1435. SERENISSIMO principi, domino duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, et magno Camerario Anglie, nostro graciosissimo protectori.

Serenissime princeps, nostrum in adversis singulare refugium, specialissime vestre oratricis Universitatis Oxoniensis utinam compati gemitibus et lamentis! Cum reverendissimus nobis pater noster, dominus Cancellarius, super illa materia discordie per legistas in dicta Universitate nuper suscitata, et vestre serenitati sepius intimata, per labores suos sensatos et efficaces sudores felici fine fuerat in puncto concludendi, sed in ultimo festo S. Petri in cathedra, Devonienses et Cornubienses, (sicut ceteri de aliis plagis regni, qui in suis festivitatibus sue patrie antiquitus unam missam solennem in ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis, matrice Universitatis ecclesia, celebrari obtinere solebant,) quandam ymaginem S. Petri de quadam parochiali ecclesia ville Oxoniensis auferentes ad summum altare S. ffrideswyde posuerunt, et missam, solitam celebrari in ecclesia Beate Marie predicta, in dicta ecclesia S. ffrideswyde celebrari fecerunt; scolares et laicos ad oblacionem inibi accedere instigarunt; et inhibicioni, rogacioni et requisicioni dicti domini nostri Cancellarii, Prioris et conventus dicti loci S. ffrideswyde, doctores et scolares legistarum obedire non curarunt, immo expresse restiterunt, unde maxima perturbacio fuerat consecuta: nocteque proxima extunc sequente magna multitudo armatorum de predictis legistis noctivagabat, et cum quosdam ex eis convictos dictus dominus noster Cancellarius per statuta et privilegia dicte Universitatis pena carceris punire voluisset, certi legiste hujusmodi convictum adire carceres impediverunt per duos dies, aliusque convictus adire carceres eciam jussus expresse recusavit. Et cum dictus dominus noster Cancellarius dictum convictum adire carceres recusantem juxta privilegia Universitatis et statuta sub certa forma bannivisset, ille tamen bannitus ad metuendissimum dominum nostrum regem, ut pretendit, appellavit; quod nunquam ab evo fuerat visum aut auditum, saltem in casibus perturbacionis pacis, contumacie aut rebellionis; et sic a dicta Universitate recedere recusat, in dicte Universitatis, suorum privilegiorum et statutorum despectum manifestum, perniciosum aliis malificis in exemplum: quia sequetur in posterum quod quilibet publicus pacis perturbator convictus, hujusmodi appellacione tutus, dictam Universitatem finaliter opprimet et illudet. Quibus omnibus piissima consideracione pensatis, potentissime serenitati vestre voto cordium supplicamus unanimi, quatinus dictos rebelles, qui in duricia sui cordis obdormiunt, potencie vestre brachio

constringere dignemini, taliter quod ad obedienciam debitam redeant nostre matris, aut ab eadem penitus abscidantur. Ipsorum sic potestates agnoscant, quorum virtute privilegia, nostre leges et statuta sunt condita, et a Christianissimis regibus vestris progenitoribus approbata; nec tam prenobiles legum latores et conditores sic publice despectum paciantur. In premissis vero procurator noster, presencium lator, vestram noverit dominacionem specialius informare; cui obsecramus humillime favorem in dicendis pro parte nostra, et aurem credulam adhibere dignemini graciose. Serenitatem vestram nostris precibus in eternum commendatam, ad suum beneplacitum et tocius regni munimen defendat et roboret solus Deus, in cujus manu sunt posita universa. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, tercio die Marcii.* Vestre serenitatis specialissima oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

109.

To the Archbishop of Dublin.

Fol. 41 a.

Commending to his grace Master Philipp Norreys, an indefatigable preacher, and conspicuous for his humility and other virtues.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Ricardo, Dei gracia Archiepiscopo Dubliniensi. 1435.

Reverendissime pater, quia fide digne relacionis fama nostras delegavit ad aures quanta gratuita et magnifica vestre dominacionis insignia karissimo confratri nostro, magistro Philippo Norreys, sacre theologie egregio professori vestra contulit paternitas graciosa; hec vivaci contemplantes memoria ad reddendas cordiales graciarum acciones merito excitamur, quas dominacioni vestre unanimiter offerimus; ex dicto recensentes philosophico, hoc tocius ad integritatem pertinere quod sue parti impenditur ad profectum. Nec ex[1] fiducia desistimus tam excellentis sciencie virum, sonoram sancte predicacionis tubam, que non raucescit in ostendendo plebi sua scelera, humilitatis speculum omniumque virtutum fragrancia insignitum, ejusdem paternitatis vestre graciosis manibus amplius commendare; ut quod dominacionis vestre benevolencia eidem inceptum recognoscimus, nostrarum precum humili interventu perseveranter senciamus proficere, quod tam scientis filii industria congruis honoribus premietur. Et paternitatem vestram reverendissimam conservet in prosperis Pastor bonus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Marcii die duodecimo.* Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

[1] *ex* added, by contemporary hand, over the line.

110.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

We have received with humility your gracious letter, which shows your zeal for God and for the peaceful pursuit of learning: and we offer our daily prayers for you. After the bitterness of adversity peace will be sweet. Your chaplain will advise you of the present state of affairs here.

1436. SERENISSIMO principi, domino nostro duci Glaucestrie, comiti Penbrochie, magno camerario Anglie, nostro graciosissimo protectori.

Serenissime princeps, humilium oratorum vestrorum commendaciones internas et devota oracionum suffragia penes Deum. Dominacionis vestre graciosissimas epistolas apicesque sacros per honorandum virum magistrum Thomam Chace humillima cervice nuper recepimus; quos ideo sacratissimos nuncupamus quia Dei zelum, studii quietem et cleri proficuum continebant; pro quibus et aliis[1] continue recolendis a seculo, eternaque memoria dignis, gloriosis vestris muneribus et insignibus preciosis nobis et matri nostre impensis, in quotidianis votis et precibus nostri cordis organa Altissimo presentamus; sperantes in Deo et in vestra serenitate premissa, apud quam posuit admirabilis sapiencia suam sedem, quod post nostre tribulacionis absinthium mel pacis sapiet dulcius, et post tenebrarum tedia lux serenior gracius eluccescet. Sic sub vestro[2] graciosissimo fulcimine tenemus firmiter, quod nostra studia feliciter respirabunt, ad Dei laudem et vestre dominacionis meritum coëternum. De statu quidem oratricis vestre Universitatis matris nostre, et qualiter ibidem singula jam versantur, novit prefatus capellanus vester dominacionem vestram plenius informare: cui, quesumus, post tropheum hujus transiture milicie, coronam ineffabilis glorie gloriosus Deus tribuat in supernis. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo sexto die Maii.* Vestre serenitatis oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

JESUS: MARIA: ANNA! ORATE.

Fol. 41 b.

Testimonial letter for Master Robert Benet.

1436. MEMORANDUM, quod frater Robertus Benet, ordinis Augustinencium, sacre theologie professor, habuit litteram testimonialem sub forma communi, et cum hac clausula, 'formamque suam in sacra theologia in eadem Universitate laudabiliter exercuit et complevit.' *Datum Oxonie mensis Maii die vicesimo sexto, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo sexto.*

[1] *alias* MS. [2] *nostro* ib.

III.

Testimonial letter for Master Thomas Gascoigne.

Would that there were many such labourers in the Lord's vineyard! We desire specially to record the excellence of his sermons lately delivered, maintaining the true doctrine of the sacrament of the altar and the King's prerogative.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium salutem in Eo qui est omnium vera salus. Quia altissime veritatis conspectui credimus offerre libamen, cum virtutibus precellenti et sciencia perhibemus testimonium digne laudis; hinc nos super vita et honeste conversacionis fragrancia karissimi confratris nostri magistri Thome Gascoigne, sacre theologie doctoris, omnium, *et cetera, sub forma communi, usque ibi.* Idcirco unanimi assensu omnes ad summum Judicem vota offerimus, ut in agro dominico multi tales nascerentur agricole, qui tribulos a segete, zizannia a tritico, et virtutis gramen a viciorum palea eradicare valeant, velut iste doctor catholicus; qui cedulo sudore studii inter nos sane doctrine metit manipulos, quibus oves Christiani ovilis sane et catholice pascere novit. Nam inter cetera sue laudis preconia hoc testamur, quod in magno festo diei Paschalis et feria tercia sequente, tanta de sacramenti altaris mysteriis, tanta de sacre scripture prerogativis et excellenciis, ac domini nostri regis prerogativis egregie et catholice, ex Sanctorum testimoniis ac meris racionibus declaravit, regalemque titulum defendit et contradicentes convicit, unde merito dictante consciencia integram sui famam omnibus patefacere decrevimus per presentes. Ne igitur &c., sub forma communi. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo vicesimo octavo die Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo sexto.* 1436.

Testimonial letter for Master John Borstall.

Nota. Item, eadem die frater Johannes Borstall, sacre pagine professor, ordinis minorum, habuit litteram testimonialem, sub forma communi. 1436.

Letters to the Archbishop of Canterbury for the two Masters Gascoigne and Borstall.

ET iidem magistri habuerunt eodem die unam litteram commendatoriam domino Archiepiscopo mittendam[1], sub forma que sequitur. 1436.

[1] *mittendam* added on margin in contemporary hand.

112.

Letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury for Masters Thomas Cooper and Thomas Long.

1436. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati, et apostolice sedis Legato, domino nostro speciali.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, quem in nostre laudis inocciduam memoriam reveremur, in Eo feliciter degere qui mandat salutem Jacob. Dominacionis vestre magnifica opera circa nostram Universitatem commendamus Altissimo celitus premianda. Et quia non debeant virtutis karismata, que vasis in honorem factis spiritus infudit Altissimi, occultari sub modio, sed ut populo luceant in publicam venire noticiam, ad Dei gloriam pariter et honorem; ea-propter reverendissime paternitati vestre, quam humili reverencia prosequimur, carissimos confratres nostros, magistros Thomam Cooper et Thomam Long, arcium magistros, laudabilibus meritis, moribus et scienciis omniumque virtutum fragranciis redimitos piisime vestre dominacionis favori concorditer commendamus; desiderantes devote
Fol. 42 a. quod has sue matris preces, in suis agendis penes eandem vestram dominacionem, sibi senciant valituras. Reverendissimam paternitatem vestram inter sanctos collocari antistites infinita felicitate plenus tribuat ipse Deus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Januarii die vicesimo secundo.* Vestre reverendissime paternitatis oratrix humillima Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Acquittance of Master H. Sever, guardian of the Winton Chest.

1436. Noverint universi per presentes nos, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis cetumque unanimem magistrorum regencium in eadem, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de magistro Henrico Sever completa et fidelia raciocinia ciste Wintoniensis, pro toto tempore sue custodie ciste antedicte; et dictum magistrum Henricum ab omni ulteriori et quacunque accione racione prefate custodie absolvimus et acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis, ultimo die mensis Januarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo sexto.*

113.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

Our humble devotion as usual. It was by divine inspiration that you have resuscitated the seven liberal arts and three philosophies. This thought supports us when exhausted by our daily and nightly studies. We would not be importunate, but only desire to kindle your charity by begging that you will provide for the continued maintenance of this learning in Oxford; for, as a tree planted will perish without water, so the poor scholar will faint for lack of means of sustenance.

SERENISSIMO principi Domino Humfrido, duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, Camerario Anglie, domino nostro et graciosissimo protectori. 1436.

Serenissime princeps, consueta et debita nostre humillime devocionis tributa, et preciosum scienciarum thesaurum continuacione inoccidua perennare. Gloriosa vestre serenitatis opera, que celo plus quam mundo copulantur, in vestra specialissima oratrice matre nostra tanquam lux meridiana summe[1] fulgent; que nostro supplici interventu ad plenum recompenset Qui in seculorum fine premiat laborantes. O precelsa serenitas, O celica inspiracio, cujus ope et mandato septem liberalium arcium triumque philosophiarum studium et doctrina, olim[2] fere in oblivionem lapsa[3], renovata fuerant et in actum redacta, et que siquidem erectum hominem supra bestias terre feliciter provehunt usque celum; et cujus serenitatis contemplacione nostrum quilibet intentissimo animo in attenuacione spirituum et lugubratione noccium laboribus continuatis hucusque studiis se exponit. Sed arbor illa necessario arescet que sue radicis non sentit fomentum, nec bene vacabit studio quem adjuncta pauperies deprimit sua mole: quia, de tam pauperculo magistrorum dictarum scienciarum posse, non procedet tam honorificum et arduum opus continuare absque competenti subsidio[4] eorum victui et studio requisito. Igitur vestra oratrix perpetua, non ut videatur nimis importuna, sed ut graciosissimi sui domini preaccendat cor benivolum, erectis in celum luminibus expansisque manibus vestre supplicat serenitati, quatinus graciose dignetur providere taliter ad continuandam scienciarum lecturam, quod sue vinee ramunculi frondeant, floreant et fructum afferant, ad Dei honorem et gloriam, sancte fidei augmentum et vestre serenitatis felicissimum[5] meritum sine fine; ut sic, multiplicatis

[1] *summo* MS. [2] *olim* added over the line by contemporary hand. [3] *mersa* erased and *lapsa* written over MS. [4] *sūba* ib. [5] *felicissimum* added over the line.

intercessoribus, vestra serenitas in gloria principetur. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, quarto decimo die Februarii.* Vestre serenitatis humillima oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

114.

To the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Lord Chancellor.

Certain unnatural sons of our mother and yours, to whom we entrusted our funds, will neither restore the same, nor render any account thereof. We always can rely upon your aid in our difficulties, and now beg that you will enforce due satisfaction of our claim.

1436. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Johanni[1], Dei gracia Wellensi et Bathoniensi episcopo, Anglie Cancellario, nostro domino speciali.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, Universitatis nostre honor precipue inflexibilisque columpna, nostre necessitudinis negocia pariter et commoda graciosis favoribus amplexari. Cum Universitatem matrem nostram ardua urgeat necessitas, vestram ad dominacionem eo confidencius recurrit pro succursu et remedio, quo nobilius juventutem vestram caris suis lactavit uberibus in virum altum, suum patrem, et tutissimum protectorem. Siquidem quia quidam ingrati sui filii, quibus nuper sua bona servanda comiserat, tempore requisito et debito eadem restaurare aut inde compotum reddere contempnunt, in magnam sibi injuriam, dampnum et gravamen; igitur manibus expansis potentissime vestre supplicat dominacioni, quatinus per breve regium sub pena tales compellantur sue matri Universitati fidelem reddere compotum, et de[2] bonis eis inibi commissis eidem Universitati satisfacere cum effectu. Et Deus pater tocius consolacionis paternitatem vestram reverendissimam inter sanctos antistites presidere tribuat in excelsis. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, quarto decimo die Februarii.* Vestre paternitatis humillima oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Fol. 42 b.

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1436. Memorandum, quod septimo die mensis Marcii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti quinto decimo, sigillata est acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Oseneya, pro quadam pensione annua, videlicet, viginti sex solidis octo denariis, debitis Universitati per eundem Abbatem et conventum pro eodem anno.

[1] *Domino Johanni* added over the line. [2] *de* repeated MS.

115.

To the Bishop of Chichester.

Thanks for favours shown to Master John Kyng, and hopes of further patronage.

REVERENDO in Christo patri et domino, Domino Simoni, Dei gracia episcopo Cicestrensi, nostro domino speciali. 1436.

Reverende in Christo pater et domine, omnimodas reverencias tanto patri debitas cum honore. Quia ex fide digne relacionis fama nuper accepimus, ex parte venerabilis confratris nostri, magistri Johannis Kyng, in sacra theologia baccallarii, quanta gratuita vestre dominacionis insignia eidem contulit vestra paternitas graciosa, hec vivaci contemplantes memoria ad reddendas cordiales graciarum acciones merito excitamur: dignum namque recensentes, philosophico ex dicto, illud tocius ad integritatem pertinere quod uni sue parti impenditur ad profectum. Nec desistimus ex fiducia, quam penes eandem vestram paternitatem jam habemus, eundem confratrem nostrum, moribus et scienciis decoratum, eidem dominacioni vestre amplius commendare; ut quod vestre graciose dominacionis benevolencia inceptum eidem recognoscimus, ejusdem caritatis intuitu et nostrarum precum interventu continuare feliciter in posterum censeamus[1]. Vestram reverendam paternitatem diutine conservet in prosperis benignitas Redemptoris. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, undevicesimo die Marcii.* Vestre paternitatis reverende oratrix Universitas Oxoniensis.

116.

To Thos. Bourchier, Bishop of Worcester.

We inclose a detailed truthful statement of the recent disturbances here, which have been falsely represented by certain ungrateful sons of the University; and in particular respecting Richard Rudal, guilty of harbouring John Raynold, who had been banished from Oxford by our authority. We beg that the said Richard Rudal may be sent back to Oxford to be duly punished. It is untrue that no Welsh scholar dares to stay in Oxford, for, in fact, they are at present residing here in large numbers.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri et domino, Domino Thome, Dei gracia Wigorniensi episcopo, nostro summo[2] Cancellario et domino speciali. 1436.

[1] Usually *sentiamus.* [2] *summo* added over the line.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, Universitatis nostre honor firmissimaque columpna, cui, ut nostro precipuo capiti et tutori, reverenciarum tributa offerrimus debitarum. Quia nuper nobis per vestrum venerabilem commissarium intimatum est vestra ex parte exemplar cujusdam querele, ministrate illustrissimo et metuendissimo domino nostro regi, in qua quam plura scimus a veritatis rectitudine declinare; volentes in caritatis visceribus venena falsitatis confundere, veritati testimonium perhibendo, seriem grandis disturbii nuper commissi, in scedula infra presentes conclusa, vestre venerande paternitati plenarie reseramus; conquerimurque de singulis ingratis matris nostre filiis, quos constat rebellione intranea tranquillitatem nostri studii denigrasse, aut externa persequucione gravamina aliter quam acta fuerant coram venerabilibus dominis ministrasse; et specialiter super Ricardo Rudale, quem ex infallibili evidencia Iohannem Raynold, bannitum in Julio ultimo transacto, retinuisse et sustinuisse nobis[1] est certum; in manifestum contemptum nostrorum statutorum et privilegiorum, per invictissimum regem nostrum et suos progenitores nobiles post eorumdem concessionem confirmacionis robore munitorum. Super eodem eciam conquerimur, quod cum datus erat eidem terminus ad respondendum super recepcione dicti banniti, recedens contumax prefixo termino, satisfacere recusavit. In humilitate igitur spirituum instamus, vestram venerabilem dominacionem suppliciter exorantes, quatenus dictus Ricardus, ut justum recipiat punimen, ad sue matris gremium remittatur, ne in futurum cedat aliis exemplum, ab Universitate, ut pallient suos defectus, fugere, forinseca remedia exquirendo. A die enim dicti disturbii apud nos tranquillitas pacifica habundavit, fertur tamen graviter crudelitas querele, propter nimiam declinacionem a semita veritatis. Nec verum est quod nullus scolaris Wallie audet Oxonie expectare, cum eos in magno et competenti numero, in aulis quibus solitam moram traxerunt, manere sciamus; quos tanquam probos studentes, pacificos et quietos, prout meriti sunt, protegere volumus et cupimus; supplicando vobis quatinus hec curetis oculis pietatis. Et Rex summe pacificus vestros actus prosperet, ad utrumque vobis commissum regimen, cleri scilicet et culminis pastoralis. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo vicesimo secundo die mensis Marcii.* Vestre venerande paternitatis humillima oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

[1] *nobis* added over the line.

Testimonial letters issued for Masters John Moreton, John Barwyle, Geoffrey Herford, and Gilbert Russell. Fol. 43 a.

LITTERA testimonialis magistri Johannis Moreton, magistri arcium, sub antiqua forma sigillata fuerat, cum ista clausula speciali 'presertim super insultu, contra nobilem virum dominum Willelmum Mountfoort militem, Oxonie nuper facto, quem in ea parte innocentem novimus et immunem.' *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, undevicesimo die Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo septimo.* 1437.

MEMORANDUM, quod magister Johannes Barwyle, magister facultatis arcium, habuit litteram testimonialem sub forma communi, vicesimo quarto die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo septimo.

MEMORANDUM, quod magister Galfridus Herford, doctor sacre theologie, ordinis predicatorum, habuit litteram testimonialem sub forma communi, anno Domini supradicto et quintodecimo die mensis Maii.

MEMORANDUM, quod magister Gilbertus Russell, doctor sacre theologie, ordinis minorum, habuit litteram testimonialem sub forma communi, anno Domini supradicto et duodecimo die mensis Junii.

117.

To the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Lord Chancellor.

We thank you for granting our prayer by remitting to us for due punishment our debtor Master John Warthyll; thereby saving us great expense, and preventing the violation of our statutes, which require that all contracts entered into in S. Mary's Church here shall be also terminated in the same place. We entreat you to lend a favourable ear to our late proctor Master William Crowton.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri et domino, Domino Johanni, Dei gracia Wellensi et Bathoniensi episcopo, Anglie Cancellario, nostro domino specciali. 1437.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, solita nostra recommendacione premissa, necessitatis nostre negocia piis favoribus ut solito amplexari. Ad eas quas valemus graciarum acciones, pro dominacione vestra graciosa continue nobis impensa, ut nuper pro brevibus domini nostri regis sub pena, assurgimus uno corde; supplicantes humillime de continuacione ejusdem dominacionis vestre graciose; et quod dignemini transmittere debitorem nostrum magistrum Johannem Warthyll ad nostram Universitatem, recepturum quod justicia decreverit, propter leviores sumptus Universitatis nostre in

hac parte fiendas; et quod, ad hoc faciendum, inveniat coram vobis sufficientem securitatem de ibidem comparendo, in proximo quo fieri poterit, coram Universitate nostra in ecclesia Beate Marie. Nam nostra statuta sic exigunt, quod res et contractus quicumque ibidem incepti in eadem debeant terminari: scientes quod hoc faciendo maximum nobis succursum impendetis, et terrorem aliis contumacibus dictam Universitatem contemnendi; que est et erit oratrix vestra perpetuis temporibus in futurum. Et favorabilem audienciam magistro Willelmo Crowton, nuper nostre Universitatis procuratori, in dicendis vice nostra, dignetur impendere paternitas graciosa. Quam ad fidei, regni et cleri honorem, Deus conservet et semper prosperet in agendis. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, sexto decimo die Junii.* Vestre paternitatis oratrix humillima Universitas Oxoniensis.

Testimonial letters to the Lord Cardinal for Masters Thomas Brewer and John Wellis.

1437. MEMORANDUM, quod magister Thomas Brewer, magister facultatis arcium, habuit unam litteram commendatoriam domino Cardinali sub forma communi, anno Domini supradicto undevicesimo die mensis Junii.

MEMORANDUM, quod magister Johannes Wellis, magister facultatis arcium, habuit litteram testimonialem sub forma communi, anno Domini supradicto undevicesimo die mensis Junii.

118.

Fol. 43 b. **Probably to the Bishop of Winchester[1].**

Complaining of malicious misrepresentations. The University is now in a perfectly peaceful state. Certain malevolent members thereof however endeavour to manufacture disorder, and, which we now especially lament, harass poor scholars, as in the case of Master Bigbury; whom with others (all, we believe, quiet and studious men) they falsely accuse before you of insurrection.

1437. SERENISSIME et illustrissime princeps, omni reverencia ac obsequio vestre reverencie humiliter prelibatis: satis agnovimus serenitatem vestram minime latere quanto inclitissimi progenitores vestri gaudio exultabant, cum de Universitatis pace ac scienciarum augmento

[1] The date CCCCXXXVII (the M being omitted) is, in the case of this letter, prefixed, and there is no further title, address, suprascription, or subscription. The letter is also crossed out in the MS. and breaks off abruptly.

audiebant; quoddam inde sumentes presagium future prosperitatis ac glorie regni hujus. Quorum vos preclarissimis virtutibus non imparem, non minori animo ac zelo nostre reipublice principem amantissimum semper accepimus, cujus magnificencie dona illustrissima ac cetera vestre amplitudinis beneficia satis demonstrant: unde eternum nobis fecisse nomen minime dubitamus. Summam ideo pacem ac serenam nostri studii tranquillitatem, qua fruimur, vestre excellencie magno cum jubilo intimamus; qua profecto majorem in hac republica nec auris nostra audivit, nec in memoria aliquorum existit. Verum, quod dolenter referimus, quidam pacis[1] emuli, ac verius nostre Universitatis filii abortivi, omni sue matris amore postposito, divinoque repulso timore, sui juramenti prestiti jam immemores, studii nostri hanc serenitatem obfuscare, hanc pacis tranquillitatem tempestate suorum malorum agitare universis fraudibus moliuntur[2]; causas hujus Universitatis ad extra suas per cautelas trahendo, virosque studiosos ejusdem vexando; propter quorum tuicionem, ne studium turbaretur, vestri nobilissimi progenitores privilegia de non trahendo causas ad extra magnis cum amore et providencia concesserunt. Inquietant nunc insuper, ut manifeste didicimus[3], scolarem quendam nomine Bigbury, juris baccalarium, moribus et sciencia clarum, nobis tam suis meritis quam virtutibus carissimum; quem cum aliis viris studiosis, ut accepimus, apud vestram excellenciam false ficta de quadam insurreccione accusasse minime veriti sunt. O audaces homines! non erubuisse mendacium, et, quod magis est, in proferendo ficticia tanti principis presenciam nullatenus formidasse, ad cujus aures veritatem tandem venturam bene poterant arbitrari, quorum nequitia[4] et aliorum[5] . . . .

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

MEMORANDUM, quod suprascripto anno gracie[6] duodevicesimo[7] 1437.
die Julii sigillata fuerat acquietancia Abbati de Ensham pro pencione annua quinquaginta solidorum, et pro pencione pro scolaribus pauperibus depascendis in die S. Nicholai ultimo preterito[8].

Testimonial letters issued for Masters John Barbore and John Pape.

MEMORANDUM, quod magister Johannes Barbore, magister arcium, 1437.
bachallarius in medicinis habuit litteram testimonialem sub forma

[1] *pacis* repeated MS. [2] *molliuntur* ib. [3] *dedicimus* ib. [4] *nequia* ib. [5] The remainder is wanting in the MS. [6] *suprascripto anno gracie* added over the line by contemporary hand. [7] A correction for *ultimo*, also in contemporary hand. [8] *ultimo pretcrito* added, again, over the line.

communi, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo septimo, mensis[1] Octobris die sexto decimo.

MEMORANDUM, quod sexto decimo die mensis Octobris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo septimo sigillata fuit littera testimonialis secundum communem formam pro magistro Johanne Pape.

Acquittance of John Eggecombe.

1437. MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo septimo, vicesimo quinto[2] die Octobris sigillata est acquietancia Johanni Eggecombe bacallario facultatis . . .[3] centum solidis, receptis[4] a Cancellario et procuratoribus in partem solucionis decem librarum eidem Universitati debitarum per dictum Johannem.

Testimonial letter issued for Master Robert Fitzhugh.

1437. MEMORANDUM, quod magister Robertus fitzhuge, doctor sacre theologie, habuit litteram testimonialem sub sigillo communi[5] decimo die Novembris, anno millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo septimo.

A dispensation granted to Master Wm. Assh.

1437. MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo septimo, duodecimo die Octobris petita est gracia pro magistro Willelmo Assh, sub hac forma; 'Supplicat venerabilem congregacionem regencium magister W. Assh, promotus ad curam animarum, quatinus graciose dignetur dispensare cum eo pro uno termino in quo, ultra necessariam suam regenciam ex statutis debitam, racione cujusdam gracie sibi collate in tempore bacallariatus, regere artabatur.' Hec gracia fuit concessa et per magistrum J. Kyrkeby seniorem procuratorem pronunciata.

119.

Fol. 44 a.

From the King.

By admitting Master Wascogh, our chaplain, to be a member of your University you give a proof of your devotion to us; we thank you, and desire you to accept, as from ourselves, the communication which Master H. Sever will make to you.

1437. *Ista littera fuit missa a serenissimo ac illustrissimo nostro rege Henrico sexto, cum ista suprascripcione,* 'In Domino sincere dilectis

[1] *mense* MS. [2] Added over the line again. [3] *de dece* erased; perhaps should be *decretorum*, or perhaps for *de centum solidis*, &c. [4] The letter *r* alone occurs; probably for *receptis*. [5] *sub sig. com.* added again over the line.

Cancellario, seu ejus Commissario, et procuratoribus Universitatis nostre Oxoniensis ac cetui regencium in eadem.'

In Domino sincere dilecti, quam pura fide quamque grata devocione quod serenitati nostre placitum[1] esse queat desideretis perficere, non modo conjicimus, verum ipso rei experimento sensibiliter et oculata fide videmus; dum vos[2] nuper unanimi communique voto benedilectum clericum et capellanum nostrum magistrum Wascogh, sacre pagine professorem, non minus amplissimarum sciencie et virtutum suarum intuitu quam nostri, uti credimus, contemplacionis obtentu, in unum ex filiis alme matris vestre eciam mero motu intelleximus adoptasse: In quo haud dubium preclaras erga nos affecciones vestras plurimum laudatas habemus, et benemeritum cetum vestrum regie majestatis graciis honoramus; volentes ut dilecto capellano nostro magistro Henrico Severe, harum bajulo, in iis, que vobis nostri ex parte exponet, audienciam curetis impendere creditivam. Et jugiter optamus, fertilis et fecunda maneat alme Universitatis nostre vinea scienciarum omnium, indesinenter producens germina virtuosa. *Datum in manerio nostro de Shene mensis Novembris die tercia.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

ITEM, decimo die Decembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo septimo, sigillata est una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham, pro quadam pensione annua, debita Universitati ad festum S. Nicholai[3], anno regni regis Henrici sexti sextodecimo. 1437.

Testimonial letter for Master Henry Caldey.

MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo septimo, mensis Februarii die vicesimo tercio, sigillata [est][4] una littera testimonialis magistro Henrico Caldey, sub communi forma. 1437.

120.

To the Archbishop of Dublin.

Commendation of Master Henry Caldey.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri et domino, Ricardo, Dei gracia Archiepiscopo Dubliniensi, Universitas Oxoniensis. 1437.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, reverencias tanto patri debitas cum honore, et ad virtuosos nostre Universitatis palmites

[1] *placidum* MS. [2] *nos* ib. [3] *ad festum S. Nicholai—regni* added over the line. [4] omitted in MS.

paterna inclinare viscera cum favore. Quia virtutum karismata, que vasis in honorem factis Spiritus infudit Altissimi, nequaquam debeant occultari sub modio, sed, ut omni populo luceant, in publicam venire noticiam, ad Dei gloriam et honorem; eapropter vestre paternitati, quam sincera reverencia prosequimur, dilectum confratrem nostrum magistrum Henricum Caldey, arcium magistrum, virum utique laudabilibus vite et scienciarum meritis, conversacionis virtuose fragrancia aliisque virtutibus multipharie insignitum; cujus periciam ac circumspectam discrecionem indies inter nos experimur, specialius quo valemus commendantes; vos attente deprecamus quatinus ad eundem nostrum[1] vestra inflammetur affeccio specialis, vestre benevolencie radios ad sui status commodum inclinando; ut eo plenius ad graciarum teneamur acciones, quo ipsum gracius de vestri pectoris armario noverimus exaltatum; ex dicto recensentes philosophico illud pertinere ad tocius integritatem, quod uni sue parti impenditur ad profectum. Paternitatem vestram inter sanctos collocari antistites infinita felicitate plenus tribuat ipse Deus. *Scriptum Oxonie eadem die de qua fit mensio in ultimo memorando.*

A similar letter sent to the Bishop of Ferns.

1437. Eciam eodem die missa fuit epistola reverendo in Christo patri et domino, Roberto, Dei gracia episcopo Fernensi, pro eodem magistro Henrico Caldey sub forma priori.

121.

To the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Lord Chancellor.

We have disguised our troubles as long as we could; but now, in the interests of public justice, we appeal to you, our protector in all dangers and particularly where our just rights are imperilled. We entrusted sundry moneys, as the indentures in our hands prove, to certain of our body then in our confidence. But now they will neither restore the same, nor render any account; we beg therefore that your authority may be employed to enforce the fulfilment of their duty.

1437. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Johanni, Dei gracia Bathoniensi et Wellensi episcopo, Anglie Cancellario et nostro domino specialissimo.

Reverendissime in Christo[2] pater et domine, gravissimas nostre matris injurias, quod dolenter referimus[3], hucusque plurimum dissimulatas, nolentes, immo nec debentes, diucius occultare, aut sub fuco

[1] *confratrem* omitted MS. [2] *in Christo* repeated ib. [3] *referrimus* ib.

simulatorie preterire, sed in lucem deducere divulgandas, ut unusquisque fructus condignos suis circa rempublicam meritis et demeritis percipiat manifestos, dominacioni vestre confugimus, et litteras presentes omni devocionis spiritu eidem duximus dirigendas. Et eo tucius, cum necessitas urgeat, vobis recurrimus pro succursu quo noscimus, quod mater nostra Universitas vestre juventutis tempora suis dulcibus lactavit uberibus, in egregium sibi patrem et tocius justiciae summum in republica defensorem; et precipue pro hiis in quibus justiciam verisimiliter perituram cernimus, nec nostra reformandam potencia absque speciali vestri brachii refugio gracioso. Profecto retroactis temporibus diversisque vicibus, prout nostris liquet evidentibus indenturis, Universitas mater nostra quibusdam suis filiis, tunc sibi caris, thesauros et bona servanda commisit, que juxta ejusdem Universitatis jurium exigenciam restaurare recusant, et inde compotum non reddere non verentur; in maximum suis animabus periculum, grave eisdem scandalum [1] et dicte matris nostre gravissimum decrementum. Ea propter, tam precum nostrarum intuitu quam puplice utilitatis matris nostre optentu, per brevia regia 'sub pena' tales ingrati filii, immo verius spuria vitulamina [2], detentores, quinimo et dilapidatores bonorum communium, comparere in vestram prenobilem presenciam compellantur; et exinde ad respondendum et reddendum compotum super bonis nostris communibus eisdem commissis, per eos receptis, ac Universitati matri nostre per eosdem debitis, vestre dominacionis mandato, nobis sub eadem pena indilate mittantur; recepturi, secundum Universitatis jura, id quod justicia suadebit. Circa que magistro Willelmo Biconnell, confratri nostro, juris civilis doctori, et in per eum vestre reverendissime paternitati nostra ministrandis ex parte [3], audienciam tam creditivam quam graciosam impendere dignetur vestra dominacio celebris et preclara. Quam ad hujus regni felix regimen, cleri fulcimen, Deus prosperet in agendis, et ad sancta sanctorum transferat post hanc vitam. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Marcii die nono.*

Dispensation granted to Master John Clerke.

MEMORANDUM [4], quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo septimo, quintodecimo die Octobris petita est gracia pro 1437.

[1] *sed* added over the line before *et* MS. [2] *vitulamina* (cf. Book of Wisdom, chap. iv. v. 3, *Spuria vitulamina non dabunt radices altas*) = barren *suckers* of the vine, which spring from the root of the tree; see Du Cange. [3] *ex parte nostra*? [4] This *memorandum* is entered at the foot of fol. 44 a, and thus is inserted in the middle of ep. 121, which begins nearly at the bottom of the same fol. and is continued on 44 b. A late hand writes on margin, *verte folium ubi habetur pars reliqua epistole.*

magistro J. Clerke, bacallario sacre theologie, sub hac forma; 'Supplicat venerabili congregacioni magister Joh. Clerk quatinus, si contingat ipsum incipere in sacra theologia, quod non teneatur ad necessariam regenciam.' Hec gracia fuit concessa sub condicione quod, anno quo inceperit ter[1] predicet 'in latinis' in ecclesia Beate Marie: et sub hac condicione per magistrum J. Kyrkeby seniorem procuratorem fuit pronunciata.

122.

To the Bishop of Winchester.

We rejoice in your welfare, and thank God for your exalted position, in which you are a tower of strength to the church, and always ready to defend the cause of the oppressed. This your character makes us bold to entreat you to procure that the books bequeathed to us, as we are informed, by King Henry V, may be delivered to us. The books, especially those on philosophy, will be of the greatest use for the maintenance of the lectures lately instituted and since continued here under your patronage.

1437. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia tituli S. Eusebii Cardinali et episcopo Wintoniensi, nostro singularissimo proctectori.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, virtutum et scienciarum alumpne precipue, ecclesie firmissima columpna;—etsi Domino[2] Jesu laudum solennia nos et singulos per orbem Christicolas incessanter offerre recta velit racio, persuadeant sanctorum consilia et doctorum ecclesie dogmata inconcussa; specialius tamen in laudis jubilum votivum mater nostra Universitas tota leta consurgit ad Dominum Jesum Christum, plenitudine devocionis et oracionum pro vestri status prosperitate, promptitudine indefessa; eo quod eidem et ecclesie Anglicane immo toti Anglie vos erexit in dominum providentissimum, tutissimum protectorem justicie, in turrim fortitudinis et propugnaculum fidei orthodoxe. Letamur eciam et merito, quod signanter aures pias, benivolas attenciones justis peticionibus meritorie inclinatis, et severe justicie et veritatis vobis factis instanciis, easdem piissime inflexibiliterque cum omni efficacia, secundum vias justicie
Fol. 44 b. accommodas, procuratis, sustinetis et finem perducitis ad felicem. Qua de re plurimum animamur ea, que nostro juri ad justiciam attinent, coram vestra reverendissima paternitate secure proponere, exsequi, ac semper, necessitate superveniente, vestram dominacionem precelsam omni devocionis instancia, et reverencie, in quantum suffi-

[1] *te* MS. [2] *Domino* repeated ib.

cimus, circumstancia, humilioribus precibus excitare. Sed pro eo specialiter ad vestram circumspectissimam clemenciam concurrimus in presenti, quod cum illustrissimus et Christianissimus rex Henricus quintus, felicis memorie, Universitati sue, matri nostre concesserit et legaverit, uti accepimus, libros quamplures, tam theologie quam philosophie, eidem nondum deliberatos;—quod forsan accidit quod non fuerat hucusque exposita[1] dominacioni vestre percelebri instanter peticio pro eisdem;—dignetur vestra paternitas graciosa taliter ordinare, quod memorati libri, quamprimum fieri poterit, effectualiter liberentur. Profecto multum ad rempublicam prodessent, ut ex eis doctrina salutifera hauriatur; sed plurimum conferrent libri philosophie ad lecturam ordinariam perutilem septem scienciarum et trium philosophiarum apud nos constitutam, inchoatam et feliciter sub vestre paternitatis refugio in secula duraturam; quam tamen maxima cum difficultate hucusque perfecimus, cum librorum copia sumus nimium destituti. Imploramus igitur humiliter vestre dominacionis precelse piissimas aures habere nostris peticionibus inclinatas[2]; quarum execucionem Cancellario nostro, morum et scienciarum splendore conspicuo, adhibere dignetur favorabilem credenciam in dicendis vestre dominacionis circumspectissima celsitudo. Quam, ad tuicionem ecclesie, cleri et milicie, in agendis prosperet Jesus Christus, et post hujus vite metus, ad suas epulas transferat eternales. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo secundo die Aprilis.* Vestre reverendissime paternitatis humillima oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

123.

To the Duke of Gloucester. Fol. 45 a.

We know not what to offer you as a worthy tribute to your merits; but we present ourselves; and with bended knees and bowed heads ask your succour, and implore God to protect you and incline your ears to our prayer. We have carried on the lectures in the seven sciences and three philosophies, which we know enjoy your favour, but the expense is more than we can bear. We need a large supply of books, and money to purchase more, and pray you therefore to assist us to procure them, and to provide a permanent foundation for these lectures. Our Chancellor, the bearer hereof, is instructed to give you detailed information and invite your help both in procuring promotion of graduates and obtaining for us the books bequeathed by King Henry V.

[1] *exposita* added over the line by contemporary hand. [2] Here in the MS. occur some marks, apparently to indicate that the sentence is incomplete; the omitted words, if any are lacking, may be easily supplied from similar passages.

1437. SERENISSIMO principi, Domino Humfrido, duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, magno camerario Anglie, et domino nostro graciosissimo ac singularissimo protectori.

Serenissime princeps, cleri protector singularissime, milicie sidus luciferum firmissimaque columna; cogitantibus nobis quid esset quod tanto, tam sereno, invictissimoque et principum Christianissimo ad complacenciam digne possemus offerre, non immensa opum pondera attulimus, immo, licet munus minutum sit, nos totos offerre decrevimus; et oportet tam illustrissimum principem humillime revereri[1] flexis genibus, cervicibus inclinatis, vestram serenitatem pulsantes piis precibus, humilius quo valemus, ut nobis subveniat visceribus compassivis; et divinas aures, ut inclinatos vos reddat et sua dextera vos protegat in tranquillitate[2], nec hiis nec illis dante Domino inaniter perituris. Novimus enim lecturam ordinariam et exercicium in septem scienciis liberalibus et tribus philosophiis fore vestre serenitati placita[3] et votiva. Qua de re eadem, pro nostro posse tenui, continuamus Universitatis expensis, licet eidem gravibus in presenti, sub spe vestri potentis brachii nobis, uti firme credimus, ea que sint necessaria ad continuandam lecturam hujusmodi, provisuri. Sane non est aliquid signum evidencius pronosticum floriditatis milicie regni cujusvis quam scienciarum renascencia florida, et precipue earum, que in regno illo primo exercitate fuerant et prius temporaliter introducte, quales nunc apud nos vestri desiderii contemplacione precipue renascuntur, in mentes redeunt et in nostre Universitatis vinea clarissime reviviscunt, producture supra solitum germina fructuosa. Verum quia ex nostris dictam lecturam claris effectibus continuare non possumus sine competenti adjuvamento, proteccionem vestre dextre excelse[4] devotissime invocamus. Desunt enim nobis et librorum copia et habendi facultas; quibus, ut oportet et decet, tam famosum legendi opus poterit sustentari. Petimus igitur vestre serenitatis aures exoratas haberi, et piis oracionibus inclinatas, tam de providendis tanto operi libris, quam elemosina quadam perpetua ad dictam lecturam in perpetuum applicanda. In quibus venerando Cancellario nostro, latori presencium, cui, uti audivimus, vestre dominacionis benevolenciam dignati fuistis promittere specialem, precamur humillime ut velitis audienciam impendere creditivam; et non solum in iis, verum eciam in aliis vestre serenitati per eum nostra ex parte ministrandis; quorum unum conscernit consuetudinem quandam super promocione graduatorum, alterum vero acquisicionem librorum, quos invictissimus et illustrissimus princeps frater vester Henricus quintus oratrici vestre Univer-

[1] The MS. here has an abortive word *reve*, followed by *reverentis*. [2] *in terinquell.* MS. [3] *placida* ib. [4] *exelse* ib.

sitati Oxoniensi et nobis legavit. Et miliciam vestram in terris sic dirigat Princeps summus, ut in celis proveniat post terrena. *Scriptum &c. secundo die Aprilis.* Vestre serenitatis humillima oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

124.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Pope, Eugenius, has written to us and ordered us to send to the Council of Bâsle (transferred to Ferrara) a deputation from this University, and we have anxiously considered how we could obey his injunction. We have greatly at heart the objects of the Council, but our poverty forbids our attendance thereat. Fearing, then, not to obey the order of his Holiness we venture to ask you to help us; and, further, to relieve the poverty, so fatal to learning, under which so many good and learned men are crushed, by a more systematic execution of the provincial constitution for the promotion of graduates.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati et apostolice sedis legato, domino nostro graciosissimo. 1438.

Humiliatissimo devocionis spiritu tanto tam precipuo cleri patri reverencias humillimas[1] non minus devotas et obedienciam filialem. Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, cum nuper sanctissimus in Christo pater et dominus, Dominus Eugenius, sacrosancte Romane et universalis ecclesie summus pontifex nobis suas sacras direxit litteras, in quibus nobis[2] in virtute sancte obediencie mandando injunxit, quod cum consilium Basiliense ad civitatem Ferrariensem, pro consilio inibi celebrando, tam propter occidentalis et orientalis ecclesie unitatem, quam reformacionem ecclesie ac pacem populi Christiani, et alias causas racionabiles, auctore Domino, duxerit transferendum, quam cicius possemus aliquos nostre Universitatis doctores, vel magistros insignes, ad ipsum consilium mitteremus; ad ea tractanda et agenda, que cedant in pacem Christicolarum, Dei laudem, et exaltacionem ecclesie sue sancte; hec sacra mandata, sanctas injuncciones meditantes internius sepius animo revolvimus, nec a nostre memorie limine excidere permittimus, quomodo ea, Altissimi coöperante gracia, efficaciter compleamus. Utinam possemus ad illam desideratissimam occidentalis et orientalis ecclesie unitatem missione aliquorum de nostris doctoribus vel magistris quovismodo promovere. Ad hoc nostra racio dictat, voluntas nostra non resilit, sed in assensu firmatur.

[1] *devotiss*—abortive—comes before *non* in MS. [2] *nobis* repeated ib.

Revera tamen ad tantum et tam arduum opus ex nostre Universitatis non sufficimus tenui facultate, nisi aliorsum nobis provisum fuerit de
Fol. 45 b. succursu. Timentes igitur hec mandata pretermittere sacrosancta, vestre reverendissime paternitati consurgimus, humillius exorantes quatinus graciosas vestre munificencie manus, vestre paternalis consilii matura monita, quid nobis faciendum sit in dicto negocio, ostendatis. Quare quam humiliato spiritu vestre reverendissime paternitati instancius supplicamus, quatinus oculis vestre pietatis solite velitis specialiter respicere graduatos: quod eorum plerique, etsi litteratissimi sint atque amplissimarum virtutum eminencia insigniti, sufficientes ad annunciandum Christicolis verbum Dei, sine promocione ad beneficia ecclesiastica usque etatem decrepitam differuntur. Alii, cogente ea discipline novercha paupertate, relinquere studia cohercentur. Sane celica fuit inspiracio, qua nuper super promocione graduatorum erecta fuerat provincialis constitucio, per[1] vestramque paternitatem precipue executa: sed et meritoria, immo merito amplectenda foret ejusdem execucio, si indifferenter procederet apud omnes. Harum nostrarum peticionum executori, venerando Cancellario nostro, viro per omnia circumspecto, dignetur vestra paternalis benignitas aures piissimas inclinare, cum reverencia[2] et favore. Et vestram in terris ad suam complacenciam longevet Dominus primaciam, vobis in meritum sempiternum. *Scriptum Oxonie &c. secundo die Aprilis.* Reverendissime paternitatis vestre humillima oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1438. Item, eodem die sigillata est acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Oseney pro viginti sex solidis octo denariis, debitis Universitati anno regni regis Henrici sexti sexto decimo.

125.

Fol. 46 a. **To the Archbishop of Canterbury and other members of the Council now sitting at London.**

The University is like Rachael mourning her lost children. Her beauty is gone for very trouble. Once she was famous in the world; students flocked to her from almost every nation; then she abounded with men learned in every art and science, her schools were not dilapidated nor the halls and inns empty. Now alas! the nation is so impoverished by

[1] *pro* MS. [2] *credentia* appears, from other letters, to be the regular form in these cases.

war and scarcity both of food and money, and so slender is the reward of merit, that hardly do any now care to resort hither: scarce one thousand remain. Our doors are locked, our buildings in ruins. Those who still labour here until old age find no reward, for they see that ignorant and unlettered men are promoted while they are turned out of doors. But how shall they teach who have no knowledge? We beseech you, therefore, to consider what sort of labourers you send into the vineyard, and to encourage education by promoting deserving graduates to benefices. The example of ancient days, the warnings of scripture, the dangers of the faith, the interest of souls, alike call aloud for redress of our grievance.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, ceterisque reverendis patribus in Convocacione cleri Londoniis existentibus, nostris dominis graciosis. 1438.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati, ac apostolice sedis legato obedienciam filialem, aliisque reverendis patribus, in convocacione cleri Londoniis congregatis, omnimodam reverenciam et honorem. Apud aures pietatis et misericordie vestre, clementissimi patres, Universitas mater nostra clamat cum Rachael, plorans filios suos et noluit consolari, quia non sunt. Olim siquidem alma ista Universitas pulcra nimis et decora aspectu fuit, quasi vitis fructificans, et flores ejus flores honoris et honestatis. Sed heu! nostris jam diebus, quod quam maxime dolendo referimus, pulcritudo et decor ejus emarcuit, merens et squalidus factus est vultus ejus; et que flore ac fructu actinus fecunda fuit, filios jam, cum iis quos priori tempore genuit pre paucitate minime numerabiles, non honoris vel honestatis sed pudoris et irreverencie pocius, in dolore et anxietate parit. Aliquando fama et gloria ejus ita percelebris apud omnes naciones et gentes Christianas[1] fuit, quod non modo hujus tam incliti regni nostri sed[2] tocius pene orbis homines studendi atque discendi gracia ad eam confluxerunt. Tunc siquidem prosperata est in viis suis, et singulari laudis titulo ab omnibus honorata. Tunc revera omnium arcium et scienciarum viris litteratissimis atque eruditissimis plena; non scole lacere, non studia deserta[3], aule vel hospicia nunquam sane vacua videbantur. Sed, quod sine lamentacione et planctu dicere non possumus, nunc longe secus est. Jam siquidem gloriosa mater, olim tam beata prole fecunda, pene in exterminium ac desolacionem versa est. Sola sedet plangens ac dolens, quod non modo extranei sed nec sui ventris filii cognoverunt eam. Sic, sic revera, patres, fremitu bellorum, annone pecuniarumque caristia depauperatum est regnum nostrum;

[1] *Christianos* MS. [2] *et* ib. [3] *diserta* ib.

tam sera insuper ac modica virtutis et studii mentis[1], quod pauci aut nulli ad Universitatem accedendi habent voluntatem. Unde fit quod aule atque hospicia obserata, vel verius diruta sint; janue atque hostia scolarum et studiorum clausa; et de tot millibus studencium, que fama est istuc in priori etate fuisse, non jam unum supersit. At illi, qui sane supersunt, tedium quam maximum vite habent, quod nullum fructum, nullum denique honorem post tantum studii sudorem consecuti fuerint. Laborant autem nonnulli usque in senectam et senium, viri per omnia doctissimi atque sapientissimi, premium et mercedem boni operis expectantes. Sed quam mercedem, quemque honorem,—qui, ut philosophi aiunt, premium virtutis dicitur—virtus ac labor eorum consequatur, attendite quesumus. Sane filii locis[2], (famosi, supple,) et instructi viri, qui juste et ex merito promovendi amplioribusque honoribus et dignitatibus ecclesie sublimandi essent, ejiciuntur foras, atque indocti et simplices, qui non litteraturam cognoverunt, intrant in labores eorum. O quam dolendum est, piissimi patres, vineam Domini Sabaoth, ecclesiam, scilicet, unicam Dei sponsam, tam imprudentibus atque indoctis cultoribus ad excolendum esse traditam! Quomodo lucerne ardentes in sacrosancta Dei ecclesia erunt, si nec oleum nec lumen in lampade fuerit? Quid dicemus de hiis? nunquid purum oleum sancte conversacionis, ac vite integritatem, numquid et lumen doctrine, sciencie, et veritatis, quo officium sancte predicacionis ac administracionis verbi Dei excerceant, intus in animo foveant? et quomodo revera scient, cum litteras non didicerint? Attendite igitur, obsecramus, patres, attendite, columpne et precipua luminaria ecclesie, quos operarios in messem Domini mittatis. Respicite, quesumus humiliter, primum ad domesticos fidei, (eos, supple, qui lucernas ardentes habent in manibus suis,) moribus et sciencia probatos. Licet enim Universitas mater nostra, labente jam tempore, plurimum depauperata atque humiliata
Fol. 46 b. sit, in singulis tamen facultatibus et scienciis quidam electi ex millibus manent, adeo sane docti atque litterati sicut et superiori etate fuerunt. O ideo desides secordesque circa studium magis factos esse, quod nullum virtutis, nullum studii sui premium, nullam utique promocionem sese consecuturos autumant! Eo magis in desperacione positi, cum tot ex predecessoribus suis sine promocione, sine aliquo penitus studii premio dies clausisse extremos cognoverint. Flexis igitur genibus, obnixius quo valemus exoramus ac petimus, quatenus ad effectualem graduatorum promocionem oculos misericordie vestre convertere dignemini: considerantes qualem quantamque nobis occasionem adeo diligencius studendi et proficiendi prestabitis, si vota nostra audieritis graciose. Moveat vos, patres, ad tam pium ac sanctum opus, primum

[1] *meres?* [2] *lucis?*

Universitatis nostre et cleri desolacio. Et sicut, bello inter Lacedemonios ac Athenienses exorto, Lacedemoniis victoribus existentibus, dum in Grecorum consilio questio versaretur, si Athenas delere fas esset; cum in regno Grecorum oculi tantum duo essent, alterum dicere[1] nefas esse responsum fuit. Ita et, dum in hoc florentissimo regno duo duntaxat oculi, due lucerne ardentes fuerint, Oxonia et Cantibrigia, alteram vel utramque deleri vel extingui, seu desolacionem pati nepharium esse judicetis. Moveat et vos communis tocius ecclesie et populi Anglicani utilitas. Moveat tot pereuncium animarum jactura, quas in sacrificium laudis non lucraturi estis. Moveat amor fidei periclitantis, malaque nepharia, quibus indies fideles ab hereticis vexantur: de quibus sic Apostolus scribit; '*Instabunt*, inquit, *in novissimis diebus tempora periculosa, homines sese amantes, cupidi, elati, sine pace, criminatores, habentes quidem speciem pietatis virtutem autem ejus abnegantes, contra fidem reprobi*[2]: *et sicut Jannes et Jambres*[3] *Moysi restiterunt, ita et hi veritati resistent.*' Que omnia si solita vestra prudencia consideraveritis, certi reddimur quod vos graciosissimos ac voto nostro paratissimos dominos senciemus, ad nostre oracionis saluberrimam expedicionem; in qua laudem vobis in hoc seculo et eterna apud Deum premia comparabitis. Et, ut singula pro parte nostra eo felicem magis effectum consequantur, fidem rogamus indubiam prestare dignemini venerabili Cancellario aliisque nunciis nostris, hujus nostre supplicacionis expediende gracia ad vos destinatis. Et reverendissimum cetum vestrum, ad laudem et gloriam ecclesie sue sancte, conservet in prosperis Sponsus ejus Jesus Christus, qui est benedictus in secula. Humillima vestrarum paternitatum oratrix Universitas Oxoniensis.

Item, eodem die sigillata est procuratio[4] directa domino Cancellario et aliis magistris existentibus Londoniis pro negocio superius memorato expediendo.

126.

Hec est copia littere commendaticie magistri Philippi Norys, sacre theologie professoris, sigillata undetricesimo die Maii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo octavo. Fol. 47 a.

Whereas Master Philipp Norys is falsely accused of heretical teachings and it is asserted that he has been banished from Oxford and excom-

[1] *delere?* [2] *rebropi* MS. [3] *Mambres* ib. [4] *procuratore* ib.

municated, and would have been burnt at the stake had he remained here, we hereby declare the said statements to be entirely unfounded, and that he is, on the contrary, above all suspicion in regard of such matters.

1438. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, salutem in omnium Salvatore. Quia sanctum et justum est perhibere testimonium veritati, sicut Dei Filius, a sinu Patris in celis ad infima mundi descendens in terris, ut testis vie et veritatis fieret fidelis, evangelio proclamante *Ego sum via et veritas*; nobis relinquens exemplum ut Ejus sequamur vestigia, veritatem quam novimus contestando; Hinc est, prout tarde audivimus, et nimis cito, quod noster confrater, magister Philippus Norys, professor sacre theologie et veritatis, fuit et est injuste, nequiter atque sinistre diffamatus; qualiter certas hereses et falsa dogmata inter nos seminasset, propter que bannitus ac eciam excommunicatus fuisset; et, si moram nobiscum traxisset, combustionem ignis passus fuisset; que omnia et singula fore falsa et maliciose concepta testamur unanimiter; proclamantes ejus innocenciam, nobiscum illesam famam, sanam doctrinam; in moribus et sciencia virum providum et probum. Quibus attentis rogamus, obsecramus et deprecamur has litteras inspicientes consimile perhibere testimonium veritati. In quorum omnium fidem et testimonium sigillum nostre Universitatis fecimus his apponi. *Datum ut supra* [1].

127.

To the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Lord Chancellor.

We hear that Master Norris is to answer before you for certain parts of his lectures delivered here. We need not remind you, who were suckled by our common mother, and have grown up to be her father and defender, that this is a cause which by our privileges ought to be tried by us; we beg therefore that you will remit the same and the person in question to us, and we will judge without partiality.

1438. Reverendo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Johanni, Dei gracia Bathoniensi et Wellensi episcopo ac Anglie Cancellario, nostro domino gracioso.

Humillime devocionis spiritu reverencias debitas tanto patri et domino merito tribuendas nunc et semper cum honore. Alme Uni-

[1] This epistle, containing allusion to a possible *auto da fe*, is, in common with several to the Pope, crossed out in the MS.

versitatis matris nostre olim alumpne prenobilis, sed nunc pater et defensor graciose, nostri concursus tutamen et refugium singulare; ex relacione veridica concepimus venerabilem sacre theologie professorem et nostre congregacionis confratrem, magistrum Philippum Norris dominacioni vestre pro certis criminibus, (prout vestra dominacio informatur,) in sua lectura ordinaria nobiscum recitata, ordine privilegiorum nostrorum pretermisso, accusatum et super eisdem coram vestra dominacione in crastino Johannis Baptiste virtute cujusdam citacionis responsurum. Que materia responsionis, ex quo nobiscum est incepta, juxta privilegia matris nostre, sicut constat lucide vestre dominacioni, nobiscum debeat terminari; ad que privilegia inviolabiliter observanda vinculo juramenti astringuntur singuli matris ubera suorum graduum assumpcione sugentes; et specialiter qui pro tempore fuerint circa matris obsequia ad tempus ministerialiter excubantes. Hinc obnixius vestram dominacionem, in qua summe confidimus, cum omni instancia humilitatis deprecamur attente, quatinus dignetur vestre dominacionis sincera consciencia remittere causam cum persona ante faciem matris examinandam; et, si reus inveniatur, juxta sui delicti qualitatem, sine accepcione persone, erit plagarum modus proporcionatus. Sin autem ipsum libere evolare discernamus[1], et ab ulteriori injuste vexacionis[2], quantum in nobis est, absolvemus. Et vestram dominacionem, ad ecclesie et regni regimen et nostre Universitatis munimen, diutine conservet in prosperis sapiencia Dei Patris. *Scriptum Oxonie mensis Junii die vicesimo secundo.*

128.

To Master Philipp Norys. Fol. 47 b.

We have heard that you are summoned to answer before the Lord Chancellor certain charges, arising from lectures delivered here by you; and we warn you that so to do would be a violation of our privileges and of the oath by which you are bound.

Venerabili confratri nostro, magistro Philippo Norys, sacre theologie professori. 1438.

Honorande confrater, salutem internam, et vestre matris privilegia revereri. Quia nuper audivimus quod citati fuistis examinandus et responsurus, coram reverendo patre et domino nostro Cancellario Anglie, de et super certis articulis tangentibus lecturam vestram ordinariam nobiscum; que materia, ut satis nobis constat, juxta

[1] For *decernamus*; a frequent confusion. [2] *injusta vexatione?*

privilegia matris nostre, ad que inviolabiliter observanda astringimini vestri vinculo juramenti, nobiscum inchoata debeat terminari; Hinc vobis, virtute dicti vestri juramenti prestiti ad dicta privilegia illese observanda, tenore presencium inhibemus, ne in dicta materia, nobiscum ut prefertur inchoata, coram aliquibus nec alibi respondeatis, nisi solum coram facie vestre matris, ibique responsurus et quod justum fuerit in eadem materia recepturus. Et reverenciam vestram conservet in bono Filius Virginis et Redemptor. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Junii die vicesimo tercio.*

129.

1438. Religiosis viris fratribus[1] . . .

Honorandis viris et religiosis salutem, et sue matris Universitatis nostre jura et privilegia revereri. Quia nuper ex relacione veridica audivimus quod vos citari procurastis confratrem nostrum, magistrum Philippum Norrys, sacre theologie professorem ad comparendum coram conservatoribus vestrorum ordinum, responsurum de et super articulis lecturam nuper suam ordinariam nobiscum tangentibus, que materia ut satis nobis constat[2] . . .

Pateat universis per presentes nos, magistros J. Carpenter[3] . . .

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1438. Memorandum, quod undetricesimo die Junii sigillata fuit acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynsham, de quinquaginta duobus solidis debitis Universitati in capite jejunii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti sexto decimo.

Testimonial letter for Master Nicholas Sutton.

1438. Memorandum, quod secundo die Julii sigillata fuit littera testimonialis pro magistro Nicholao Sutton, sub forma communi, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo octavo.

[1] No title, address, or subscription in MS., but no doubt the fragment is part of a letter addressed to the Augustine friars; see letter 131 *infra*. [2] Here this fragment breaks off, and the portion given is crossed out in the MS. [3] The remainder is wanting; probably a patent letter about P. Norrys.

130.

To the King. Fol. 48 a.

Having been informed that Master Norreys is summoned before the Lord Chancellor, to answer certain articles of accusation arising from his ordinary lectures, we beg leave, with the deepest humility & grief, to represent that to plead to this charge would be a violation of those privileges with which your royal progenitors have endowed us; and to ask that the case may be sent back again to us; and justice shall be done.

SERENISSIMO et metuendissimo principi, domino nostro regi, regi Anglie et Francie illustrissimo. 1438.

Clementissime rex ac princeps, metuende ecclesie vigor, veritatis defensor, ac legum et privilegiorum tutissime conservator cum favore. Vestre celsitudinis progenitores, in quietem studencium augmentumque scienciarum et virtutum, vestram Universitatem Oxoniensem diversis privilegiis sanis et congruis stabilire et confirmare in perpetuum decreverunt. Tarde, et minus cito, verbalis orta fuit contencio in vestra Universitate Oxoniensi, inter honorabilem virum magistrum Philippum Norreys, sacre theologie doctorem, et fratrem W. Musilwik ordinis Augustinensium; cujus contencionis materia juxta vestre Universitatis privilegia, ad intra sic incepta, nullo modo traheretur in[1] alio foro ad extra; ad que privilegia virtute juramenti astringuntur omnes inibi scholasticum gradum adepti. Modo predicta materia coram vestro prematuro dominorum consilio tractatur et examinatur in fundo. Unde timemus, si sileamus, offensam consciencie, privilegiorum lesionem et in futuro dispendium intollerabile. Hinc igitur inclinati ad terram, cordis cum singultu, devotissimas fundimus preces vestre celsitudinis regie majestati, ad effectum ut persone[2] predicte ad Universitatem vestram poterunt remitti; ut ubi lis oriebatur ibi pax reformetur; et juxta qualitatem delicti erit plagarum modus, sine accepcione persone. Et vestre regalie monarchiam regat, protegat et defendat Sancta Trinitas. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre Congregacionis domo, mensis Julii die quarto.* Humillima vestre regie majestatis oratrix perpetua Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

[1] *ad in* MS. [2] *et perce* without mark of abbreviation ib., cf. Epist. 131 ad fin.

131.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

To our grief we are informed that certain persons, jealous of us because of the magnificent favours you have bestowed upon us, have falsely stated that we have banished friar Mussilwyk unjustly. The truth is that the said friar has grossly violated our privileges; for he excommunicated Master P. Norreys in the schools without leave from the Chancellor, and, being summoned to answer for so doing, has hitherto refused to appear, though bound by his oath to reside in Oxford. Under these circumstances, after mature deliberation we have deprived him temporarily of his doctor's robes until he shall have made submission. But when it became evident in the sequel that he was supported in his resistance by his monastery, we suspended the said monastery; and farther we have not proceeded. We pray that he and his abettors may be obliged to appear before us, and be examined and so dealt with as justice shall require.

1438. Serenissimo principi domino nostro, Domino Humfrido, duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, magno camerario Anglie.

Serenissime princeps almeque nostre Universitatis protector graciosissime, magnifice dominacionis vestre immensa beneficia circa dictam matrem nostram futuris temporibus continuare. Non sine multa cordis amaritudine animique perturbacione audivimus, quod nonnulli, a via veritatis exorbitantes de magnificis subvencionibus vestris nostre Universitati Oxoniensi, vestre dominacionis munificenciam subtrahere nitentes, aures piissimas tante dominacionis informare minus recte non formidarunt; sic, quod nos, ordine justicie pretermisso, fratrem Willelmum Musilwyk, ordinis Augustinensium, contra privilegia et statuta nostra laborantem, bannicionis penam in ipsum fulminavimus, multaque alia; interque alia contra justicie equitatem nos asserunt sentensiasse. Et, ut rei veritas seriesque rei geste tanti principis majestati innotescat, scire dignetur vestra dominacio circumspecta, quod quidam venerabilis vir, magister Philippus Noreys, sacre theologie professor, leccionem suam ordinariam nobiscum resumpsit; occasione cujus lecture dictus frater Willelmus cum ceteris pregravatus, ex post contra dictum doctorem quandam in scolis legit leccionem; in qua prefatum doctorem, Cancellario inconsulto, publice excommunicavit; directe contra privilegia nostre Universitatis; immo persona, juxta juris exigenciam, nullatenus preconizata. Nos igitur, hanc privilegiorum nostrorum manifestam violacionem corde tenus, ut decet, ponderantes, dictum fratrem Willelmum fecimus legitime citari, ad respondendum de hiis, et super hiis que sibi ex parte

dicte Universitatis essent objicienda. Sed comparere distulit, et adhuc differt in presenti; in contemptum, ut videtur, tocius Universitatis; cum tamen virtute sue regencie, tactis sacrosanctis, nobiscum residere sit artatus. Tandem posthac visum est omnibus magistris regentibus et non-regentibus Universitatis supradicte, previa tamen matura deliberacione, propter notoriam suam contumaciam et privilegiorum nostrorum pregrandem lesionem, dictum fratrem Willelmum insigniis doctoratus ad tempus privari; quousque propter sua precedencia demerita ad ovilis unitatem reducitur. Dehinc transacta solemnitate festi Pentecostes, resumpcione magistrorum interim inchoante, juxta statuta nostra fecimus dictum fratrem per scolas publice citari; et quia certis evidenciis nobis innotuit quod non solum ipse, sed et claustrum suum, Universitatem illusit, unde dicta Universitas dictum claustrum Fol. 48 b.
suspendit. Et in isto negocio ulterius non processimus; nec aliquid aliud fecimus, expectantes de die in diem adventum dicti fratris. Acta autem prefati doctoris, confratris nostri magistri Philippi, habet Cancellarius noster ad manus examinanda. Qui quidem doctor publice protestatus est, in plena convocacione regencium et non-regencium, parere in singulis, dictis suis scilicet et dicendis, judicio et correccioni Cancellarii, doctorum et magistrorum dicte Universitatis, ac quorum interest in hac parte. Quare precelsam dominacionem, in qua singularius confidimus, devotis precibus humillime deprecamur, quatinus, intuitu caritatis et optentu inclitissime dominacionis vestre, privilegia nostra conserventur illesa; ut persone predicte remittantur coram oratoribus vestris, juxta privilegia nostra examinande, secundum merita demeritave congruo justicie moderamine in hac parte recepture. Et serenitatem vestram inclitissimam semper preservet in prosperis, ad regni, cleri et oratricis vestre specialissime munimen et solamina, Princeps pacis. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, die quarto*[1]. Humillima vestre serenitatis oratrix perpetua Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

132.

To the Cardinal Bishop of Winchester.

Briefly states the offence of friar Mussilwyk, and begs that the Bishop will use his influence to compel the said Mussilwyk and his adherents to submit themselves to the University, there being danger of a lawsuit being commenced in another court, which would be a violation of the privilege.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico, Dei 1438.
gracia tituli S. Eusebii Cardinali ac episcopo Wyntoniensi, nostro

[1] No farther date given.

singularissimo protectori. Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, omnimodas reverencias tanto patri debitas pariter cum honore. Cum nuper venerabilis vir, confrater noster, magister Philippus Norres, sacre theologie professor, paratus ad semper, ut publice coram nobis protestatus est, in singulis per eum dictis et dicendis stare judicio et correccioni Cancellarii, doctorum et magistrorum nostre Universitatis Oxoniensis, ac quorum interest in hac parte, lecciones suas ordinarias nobiscum resumpserit; cujus occasione lecture quidam frater W. Musulwyk, ordinis Augustinensium, cum ceteris sibi coherentibus pregravatus, in quadam leccione sua ordinaria, proprio juramento contraveniens, statuta nostra et privilegia ausu temerario violare non timuit, et alia enormia in nominis sui diffamacionem et contra consciencie rectitudinem operatus est; cum vinculo juramenti ad actus regencie nobiscum residere fuerat astrictus: nempe post tantas injurias pie matri illatas, congregacione inconsulta ut contumax recessit, et adhuc recusat ad gremium matris redire veniam petiturus pro delictis; et, quod dolenter referimus, labore aliquorum nostre Universitatis emulorum, materia litis, sic ad intra inchoata et nobiscum juxta privilegia nostra determinanda, ad extra trahitur determinanda.—Quare piissimam vestram dominacionem devotis precibus humillime exoramus, quatinus suspiriis fecunde matris compati dignemini lacrimosis, ad effectum ut privilegia nostra serventur illesa, et dicte persone mediacione vestra benignissima remittantur coram nobis examinande, secundum merita demeritave congruo justicie moderamine in hac parte recepture. Et de statu crediti ministerii, ad promissionem benediccionis, post hujus vite transitum feliciter pervenire concedat magnus Pastor omnium Jesus Christus. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo tercio Idus Julii.*

133.

Fol. b. 48 a.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury[1].

The case of friar W. Mussilwyk again.

1438. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati et apostolice sedis legato, domino nostro graciosissimo.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, omnimodas reverencias cum obediencia pariter et honore. Cum nuper venerabilis vir, con-

[1] This epistle commences a second folio numbered 48. Thus there are four so numbered: 48 a, 48 b, and b. 48 a, b. 48 b. in the MS.

frater noster, magister Philippus Norres, sacre theologie professor, paratus ad semper, ut publice coram nobis protestatus est, in singulis per eum dictis et dicendis, stare judicio et correccioni Cancellarii, doctorum et magistrorum nostre Universitatis Oxoniensis ac quorum interest in hac parte, lecciones suas ordinarias nobiscum resumpserit; cujus occasione lecture quidam frater W. Musilwyk, ordinis Augustinensium, cum ceteris sibi coherentibus pregravatus, in quadam leccione sua ordinaria, proprio juramento contraveniens, statuta nostra et privilegia ausu temerario violare non timuit, et alia enormia in nominis sui diffamacionem[1] . . .

134.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

We have read, with due respect, your letter lately received; and, with more sorrow than we can express, we perceive that you have been misinformed by our enemies respecting the case of friar W. Mussilwik. We hope that you have now had our letter containing details of the case, and will see thereby that we have not acted with precipitation or undue severity, but rather with the tenderness of a mother for her erring child.

SERENISSIMO principi domino nostro, duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, magno camerario Anglie, nostro protectori graciosissimo. 1438.

Illustrissime princeps, alme Universitatis Oxoniensis protector graciosissime, vestre serenitatis honorandos apices nonas Julii reverentissime suscepit unanimis cetus magistrorum regencium et nonregencium in eadem: quibus cum omni honore, quo decuit, perlectis, quod sine animi merore et luctu cordis referre nequimus, dominacionem vestram, magnificis ostensis beneficiis nobis gratissimam, concepimus fuisse sinistro modo per Universitatis emulos informatam de legitimo processu, per nos habito juxta juris exigenciam, contra fratrem W. Musilwik, ordinis Augustinensium; qui nimis enormiter contra proprium juramentum privilegia nostra et libertates ausu temerario minime violare pertimuit. Sed nunc siquidem speramus peritissimam circumspeccionem vestram, per devotorum oratorum litteras humillimas, veritatem materie inchoate et seriem rei geste jam plenarie accepisse; et cum rei veritas in lucem prodeat, tunc manifestum erit quomodo insurrexerunt in . . .[2] vestram testes iniqui, et mentita est iniquitas sibi; et quod non minus consulte, precipitacione ve aliqua justicie nos quovismodo contra dictum fratrem, privilegiorum

[1] The remainder is wanting, MS. [2] A word partially obliterated and illegible here, ib.

nostrorum publicum violatorem, preter juris ordinem in aliquo processisse. Quinymo notum satis erit quod, habita matura deliberacione, pene demeritis condigne nullatenus correspondere. Porro adhuc, velut pia mater mortem merens degeneris filii, ut redeat petiturus veniam delicti prestolatur de die in diem; ut juxta artem celestis medici plagis, propria malicia impositis, oleum infundat tempore congruo magne misericordie, simul et vinum debite correccionis. Constat enim nobis de benignissimo affectu quam erga nos[1] . . . .

135.

Fol. b. 48 b.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

We will remit the penalty inflicted on friar W. Musselwyke as a personal favour to you, not because it was unjust or precipitate. But God does not pardon the impenitent, neither can we. The offender therefore must come to us and ask pardon for his perjury and manifold offences. Our Chancellor has a copy of the terms of the excommunication of Master Norres, and also of the lectures delivered by him, which were the cause thereof. The case then would have been at once examined and settled, if friar W. Musselwyke had not absconded. We call God to witness that we are most anxious for the true faith of the church, and to do all we can to destroy heresy and schism, and we regret that you have been falsely informed as to our conduct in this case.

1438. Serenissimo principi Humfrido, duci Gloucestrie, domino nostro specialissimo et generalissimo protectori.

Serenissime princeps, noster protector singularissime, et catholice fidei Christianissime defensator; perlectis vestre celsitudinis litteris et omni cum reverencia intellectis[2] . . . . . ut nostram corrigeremus precipitacionem, fratrem W. Musselwyke ad gradum pristinum reducendo; sin autem, arbitraremini non hanc illi sed vobis illatam injuriam contumeliamque fuisse;—remittemus utique sentenciam nostram, quam in eum juste tulimus, non precipitanter, vestri mandati intuitu; dum tamen ad Universitatem oratricem vestram matremque suam, cujus est eundem solvere quem ligavit, obediens veniat, pro suis multiplicatis contumaciis perjurii reatu, in violacionem privilegiorum et enervacionem statutorum Universitatis, veniam deposcendo. Quoniam nec ipsam Deus in terra reliquit, nec sibi retinuit, potestatem ut impenitentem absolvat. Regrediatur igitur

[1] The MS. breaks off here abruptly.

[2] A line and a half here completely destroyed by erasure, ib.

penitens ad matris ubera, et, vestre suasionis contemplacione, dabitur ei pro malediccione benediccio, fas pro nefas, lac pro felle quod contra matris sue privilegia propinavit, dum sua presumpcione admirabili contra omnia jura, contra Universitatis nostre privilegia, in magistrum Philippum Nores, non premonitum, non citatum, sine auctoritate Cancellarii in hac parte sibi collata, precipitanter ac nequiter excommunicacionis sentenciam fulminavit. Super qua transgressione citatus comparere coram Cancellario, in prefixis sibi loco et termino, recusavit, ab Universitate recessit contumaciter, et in eadem contumacia hinc hucusque perseverat. Sane ejus lecturam, cum leccionibus ordinariis dicti Philippi Nores, statim quam primum fuerant in scolis theologicis ministrate, noster venerabilis Cancellarius ab utroque eorum per doctores sanos et magistros examinandas accepit; ita ut toti rei geste finis felix infra Universitatem fuisset impositus, Deo duce, ut credimus, nisi quod dictus Musselwyke determinacionem sue matris renuens expectare, ab Universitate in tempore regencie sue necessarie raptim et latenter exsiliit: ut sic, quas adversum sue matris exercuit privilegia, palliare possit insanias, et evadere incorrectus; et preter hoc adhuc abest in sui juramenti lesionem. Scit enim Deus, quod ea facie universalem matrem nostram ecclesiam semper respicimus, ut nec falsum dogma, errorem vel heresim, si que fuerint per unum vel alterum seminata, sed et nec scandala hinc et inde exorta sustineremus, defenderemus, pretergrederemur simulatorie; sed eadem indifferenter investigaremus, destrueremus, eorumdem seminatores correccionis baculo feriendo. Quam nostram correccionem, si quis fortassis obstinax recusaret, citissime ad tutissimum munimen vestri brachii excelsi conflueremus; quem hucusque certissima experiencia novimus nostrum benevolentissimum, immo effectualissimum, protectorem. Profecto et amore et caritate utrumque dictorum doctorum prosequimur, ut equi judicis fungentes officio nequaquam verteremus partem dextri lateris in sinistrum, sed utrumque, in quo demeruit, justo judicio feriremus. Primum, mirantes ipsi, presumpcioni permaxime destestamur, qua quispiam, vultu ductus inverecundo, os informacionis sinistre in tam illustrissimi principis conspectum contra suam oratricem pauperculam adperire ausus est; affirmando eam dictum Musselwyke inconsulte et sentencia precipiti tam a doctoratu deposuisse quam ab eodem usum pilii amovisse. Verum a doctoratu non devestivimus eundem, sed propter suam inobedienciam in non parendo citacioni et vocacioni nostri Cancellarii, ad quam vinculo astringitur juramenti, eum ab usu pilii suspendimus, quousque Universitati paruerit, ut tenetur, et per Universitatem ad usum pilii fuerit restitutus. Nec hec, si placeat, princeps metuendissime, quadam

precipitacione fecimus; quoniam eum, per diem ante nostram congregacionem, citatione prevenimus: et, postquam Universitas fuerat congregata, frequenter propter eundem ad suum claustrum misimus, ipsum legitime expectantes, et responsum, ut videtur, illusorie fabricatum recepimus; videlicet eum ab Universitate fuisse egressum, cum tamen, prout plenius informamur, in crastino in Universitate a non-
Fol. 49 a. nullis visus fuerat et compertus. Nescientes igitur penam magis congruam, qua sic profugum possemus reducere, dictam sentenciam, omissis penis gravioribus, ut excommunicacione et aliis, in eum tulimus, ut prefertur. Petimus igitur obnixius vestram inclitissimam serenitatem, ut dicti doctores ad matris gremia remittantur, recepturi quod justicia suaserit in hac parte; ne vestre oratricis paupercule privilegia pereant, et libertates per sui violacionem multiplicem in nihilum redigantur. Et ex hinc quidquid vestra serenitas preceperit in premissis adimplere conabimur cum effectu. Et vestram serenitatem in terris dirigat Princeps pacis, ad vestre oratricis munimen perpetuum, hujus regni felix regimen et ecclesie catholice defensamen. *Scriptum ac sigillatum in nostre congregacionis domo, sexto Idus Julii, post missam pro desideratissima nobis semper incolumitate vestra, et animabus felicis memorie progenitorum vestrorum, in ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis per Universitatem regencium solemniter celebratam.* Serenitatis vestre oratrix perpetua Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Testimonial letter for Master Wm. Scrivenere.

1438. Memorandum, quod quartodecimo die mensis Septembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo octavo, sigillata fuit littera testimonialis sub sigillo et forma communi pro magistro Willelmo Screvenere, arcium magistro.

136.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury and Convocation.

We are sure you cannot have forgotten our prayer, but are resolved to pray and not to faint; though we wonder that so reasonable a petition has not yet been granted. For what is more acceptable to God than to improve and maintain the true faith and worship, and expel heresy and idolatry, by the advancement of learning and promotion of learned clergy. Unless the many learned men, who now languish here in poverty until old age, meet with some reward for their labours, there will be an end of our prosperity, and of the pursuit of literature. We earnestly entreat you to promote graduates; our Chancellor will give you details.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati, ac apostolice sedis legato obedienciam filialem, ceterisque venerabilibus patribus ac dominis nostris, in convocacione cleri existentibus, reverenciam et honorem. 1438.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, preces alias vobis ceterisque patribus ac dominis nostris in sancta ac percelebri convocacione vestra ab Universitate matre nostra in filiorum suorum promocionem humillime fusas, plurimum licet temporis emensum citra fuerit, nequaquam tamen de memoria vestra excidisse confidimus. Verum Deus ac Salvator noster, semel tantum pulsatus, discipulis admirantibus sese ad audiendum difficilem prebuit, sed iterum atque iterum rogatus eosdem tandem clementer audivit. Sic, sic revera, nec mediocriter admirantes, patres,—pensata, semper summa equitate necnon justicia, racione, pro qua alias preces quam devotissime fudimus,—cur in hodiernum diem minime exauditi sumus, apud aures pietatis vestre iterum atque iterum elargimus; preces precibus addimus, ut vel jam tandem, sicut veri Dei emulatores, nos exaudire dignemini, matrique nostre cadenti succurrere. Expectamus enim semper querulo atque anelo spiritu si quando veniat consolacio a vobis; quam non ambigimus consequi, si, in exaudiendo votum nostrum, quam gratum Deo sacrificium offeretis intellexeritis. Quid enim, ut de multis sileatis, omnipotenti Domino est accepcius, quam id augere, unde cultus unius Dei ortodoxaque fides indies magis ac magis in populo Christiano accrescat, idolatria necnon hereses procul a fidelium mentibus expellantur? Quid omnium Opifici gracius, quam facultates atque sciencias colere, sine quibus eciam homines bestiis comparantur? Que omnia nimirum feceritis, si, quod et cuique bono viro semper debet esse maximi, et vobis eciam patribus cordi fuerit, salus ac prosperitas studiorum nostrorum. Quibus, nisi quam propere succurrere festinetis, quod sine planctu dicere non possumus, acta sane sunt. Egre ferre, patres, debetis nonnullos adeo doctos atque litteratos viros, quos fama est apud nos esse, quasi oblitos ac derelictos intueri, ac sine aliqua studii mercede usque in senectam et senium vivere. Quapropter, piissimi patres, obnixius quo valemus exoramus ac petimus, sicut et alias vobis fecimus grates, ad effectualem graduatorum promocionem oculos misericordie vestre convertere dignemini; meritas, si hoc feceritis, a Deo gracias recepturi. Nullum siquidem ad splendorem seu gloriam nominis vestri opus majus, nec majori opere unquam vel grandiori premio dignum, facere valebitis. Nonnulla alia, que nunc temporis dicere fas non est, scripsissemus, si non jam satis paternitates vestras, per priores litteras nostras, doctas, ampliusque per

venerabilem Cancellarium nostrum docendas, crederemus. Cui fidem, humillime quesumus, adhibere dignemini in dicendis. Et reverendissimum cetum vestrum, ad laudem et gloriam ecclesie sue sancte, conservet Sponsus ejus Jesus Christus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, tercio Idus Octobris.*

Fol. 49 b.

Letter 'supplicatory' for Master W. Thrope.

1438. MEMORANDUM, quod quarto decimo die mensis Octobris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo octavo, sigillata fuit littera supplicatoria sub sigillo et forma communi pro magistro Waltero Thrope, arcium magistro.

Four Masters appointed to act as agents at York for promotion of Graduates.

1438. MEMORANDUM, quod tercio decimo die mensis Novembris, sigillata fuit una littera procuratoria directa magistro Johanni Castell, magistro Johanni Kexby, et magistro R. Dobbys, et magistro R. Thorntone exeuntibus in civitatem Eboracensem pro promocione graduatorum expedienda.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1438. ITEM, septimo die Decembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti septimodecimo, sigillata est una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham, de annua pensione sedecim solidorum debita Universitati per eosdem, propter depascendos pauperes scolares in die S. Nicholai eodem anno.

Acquittances of Eynsham and Oseney Abbeys.

1438. MEMORANDUM, quod undecimo die mensis Decembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti septimo decimo, sigillate fuerunt due acquietancie; una Abbati et conventui de Enysham, pro annua pensione viginti sex solidorum debita Universitati in festo omnium Sanctorum; alia Abbati et conventui de Oseynea, pro annua pensione viginti sex solidorum octo denariorum debita Universitati in festo S. Nicholai.

137.

Testimonial letter for Master Ramund de Lauda.

1438. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in Eo qui est omnium vera

salus. Cum eterni Patris Filio, quem Beate Marie virginis viscera portaverunt, credimus complacere quociens veritati testimonium perhibemus; hinc est quod super mora et graduacione in dicta nostra Universitate venerabilis viri magistri Ramundi de Lauda, sacre pagine doctoris, omnes quorum interest cerciorare volentes, per has nostras litteras attestamur, quod idem magister Ramundus extitit graduatus inter nos in sacra pagina, secundum consuetudines laudabiles dicte Universitatis. Et[1], ut super prefata graduacione dicti magistri Ramundi omnibus plenius innotescat, has nostras litteras testimoniales sigillo communi nostre Universitatis predicte fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, septimo die mensis Januarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo octavo.*

Indenture between the Chancellor and Proctors and Master Robert ffeder, Fellow of the Queen's Hall.

HEC INDENTURA, facta inter magistrum Johannem Carpenter, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, magistros Willelmum Selby et Robertum fflemyng, procuratores Universitatis ex parte una, et magistrum Robertum ffeder, socium aule Regine in Oxonia, ex parte altera testatur; quod quamvis predictus Robertus ffeder obligetur prefatis Cancellario et procuratoribus et eorum successoribus in viginti sex solidis et octo denariis sterlingorum—velut in quodam scripto obligatorio inde confecto plenius continetur, cujus datum est vicesimo quarto die Januarii anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum septimodecimo—volunt tamen predictus Cancellarius et procuratores, pro se et suis successoribus quibuscunque, quod si contingat predictum magistrum Robertum ad tale beneficium promoveri, propter quod ex statutis dicte aule teneatur ipsam aulam dimittere, ex tunc teneatur solvere prefatis Cancellario et procuratoribus et eorum successoribus, qui pro tempore fuerint, viginti et sex solidos et octo denarios sterlingorum predictos, infra spacium quatuor annorum proxime sequencium promocionem predicti magistri Roberti: videlicet in quolibet anno predictorum quatuor annorum sex solidos et octo denarios; et extunc predictum scriptum obligatorium pro nullo habeatur, sin autem, in suo robore permaneat et virtute. In cujus rei &c. *Datum vicesimo sexto die Januarii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum decimo septimo.* 1438.

Acquittance of Master Robert ffeder.

Fol. 50 a.

ITEM, eodem die sigillata est una acquietancia sub hac forma: Noverint universi per presentes nos, magistrum Johannem Carpenter, 1438.

[1] *Et* omitted in MS.

Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, magistros Willelmum Selby et Robertum fflemyng, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, remisisse, relaxasse et omnino, pro nobis et successoribus nostris quibuscunque, pro nomine dicte Universitatis in perpetuum quietum clamasse magistro Roberto ffeder, socio aule Regine in Oxonia, omnimodas acciones reales et personales, querelas, sectas, transgressa, et demandas, cujuscunque fuerint nature, accionis vel condicionis, nobis et dicte Universitati versus ipsum magistrum Robertum quovismodo competentes, a principio mundi usque in diem confeccionis presencium. In cujus rei testimonium &c. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo vicesimo tercio die Januarii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum decimo septimo &c.*

Note that the Testimonial letter for Master R. de Lauda relates only to his academical degree.

1438. MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo octavo, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum decimo septimo, sigillata erat una littera testimonialis [pro magistro R. de lauda fratre ordinis predicatorum][1] sub sigillo et forma concernente gradum dumtaxat.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1438. MEMORANDUM, quod undecimo die Februarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo octavo, sigillata est una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynesham sub sigillo communi Universitatis pro viginti sex solidis, pro communa burgensium ville Oxonie.

138.

To the Bishop of Durham.

Our Chancellor having resigned, we have elected in his room Master John Norton your Chancellor, we beg therefore that you will send him to undertake this most necessary office. The rulers of every community are of divine appointment, and are as necessary to the body politic as is the head to the natural body. For this we have the warrant of scripture in the example of Moses appointing the seventy, and of heathen wisdom in the words of Solon.

1438. REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri ac domino, Domino Roberto, Dei gracia Dunelmensi episcopo, domino nostro gracioso.

[1] The words within brackets are added on the margin of the MS.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, eas primum quas debemus et valemus reverencias animo quam devotissimo paternitati vestre offerimus cum honore. Creator et Conditor omnium Deus, Cujus tanta est virtus tamque immensa potencia, ut ad ea que creata et condita sint feliciter administranda necnon regenda exteriori non eget auxilio; sed Ipse per se solus sufficiat ex abundancia tantum bonitatis sue,—non ob suum sed nostrum, qui sensuales sumus, defectum, et cognitis et sensibilibus, magis quam ignotis et a sensu elongatis, movemur exemplis,—duces ac rectores in singulis civitatibus communitatibus et populis, ad rempublicam sub felicissimis policiis et legibus sanctissimis, velut quibusdam sensibilibus regulis gubernandam constitutos voluit: ut quemadmodum Ipse toti regendo presidet orbi, ita et hi urbibus et civitatibus, ad componendos mores hominum feroces ac bestiales eorum affectus cohercendos, presiderent. Sic et Moyses sapientissimus, licet Israeliti populo dux solus a Deo factus esset, sub se tamen judices, gubernatores ac duces, qui vices suas in minoribus exequi possent, Jetro soceri sui consilio, non pauco numero ordinavit. Equaliter enim opus est bono principe ac rectore in corpore et capite inorganico; sicut profecto, capite bene se habente, corpus humanum membraque singula recte disponuntur: ita et sub bono atque optimo principe, et in privatis et publicis communitatibus, respublica rectissime semper et justissime gubernatur. Pariter enim cum bono principe omnia bona succedunt, et amor, amicicia, pax, concordia: que res cuilibet communitati ac civitati quam sint necessarie Solonem, Apollinis oraculo unum de septem sapientissimis judicatum, testem facimus. Qui has res ita magnificavit ut eas omnium rerum creatrices et conditrices diceret, nec mundum ipsum, seu ullam civitatem aut villulam aliquam, constare posse, vel homines socialiter et civiliter vivere, nisi pace quadam, amicicia et concordia colligati essent. Nos igitur, clementissime pater, tanquam vere pacis et concordie filii, matrem nostram Universitatem per liberam resignacionem venerabilis viri magistri Johannis Carpenter, ultimo Cancellarii ejusdem, terciodecimo die Februarii in congregacione regencium factam, considerantes sponso suo viduatam; attendentes insuper quod dictum est, quod civitas videlicet aut communitas diu sine capite, sine rectore et duce stare et florere nequit; qualeque ac quantum dispendium ac precipicium, deficiente seu absente pastore, gregi suo immineat; ejusdem mensis die vicesimo septimo, congregacione facta, dilectum vobis in Christo filium ac familiarem, circumspectum, maturum, doctum ac litteratum virum, magistrum Johannem Norton, cancellarium vestrum, nobis in Cancellarium, matri nostre Universitati in sponsum, gregi periclitanti in pastorem et ducem elegimus atque prefecimus: virum

per omnia, ut speramus, Deo placabilem, nobis utilem, et sub brachio ac tutela dominacionis vestre statutorum, consuetudinum, privilegiorum et libertatum nostrorum defensorem futurum fortissimum. Paternitatem igitur vestram obsecramus in Domino, ut pastorem ad ovile, cultorem ad vineam, sponsum ad sponsam suam mittere dignemini; illud intime considerantes, quam gratam Deo et toti Universitati rem desiderabilem feceritis, si hujus nostre peticionis graciosus[1] exauditor fueritis. Qua in re eciam vobis et laudem et gloriam quam maximam comparabitis. Et paternitatem vestram ad exaltacionem et gloriam ecclesie sue, honoremque Universitatis matris nostre diu felicitet utriusque vinee Cultor Jesus Christus. *Scriptum Oxonie Kalendis Marciis.* Vestre paternitatis perpetua oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

139.

Fol. 50 b. **To the Bishop of Exeter.**

By your favour to Master Snetesham you have conferred a benefit upon us all. He is a man of excellent learning and morals; and great humility, and at the same time an indefatigable preacher; in all respects deserving of promotion.

1438. Reverendo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Edmundo, Dei gracia episcopo Exoniensi vestre paternitatis oratrix Universitas Oxoniensis.

Reverende in Christo pater et domine, omnimodas reverencias cum honore. Quia fidedigna relacionis fama nostras delegavit ad aures, quanta gratuita et bene merita vestre paternitatis insignia carissimo confratri nostro, magistro Johanni Snetesham, sacre theologie egregio professori, contulit liberalitas vestri cordis; hec vivaci contemplantes memoria, ad reddendas, si quas valemus, graciarum acciones non immerito excitamur; quas dominacioni vestre totis visceribus immolamus; philosophico recensentes ex dicto, hoc tocius pertinere ad integritatem quod uni sue parti impenditur ad profectum. O quam felix vestre paternitatis intencio felicissimaque execucio, quum virum tam excellentis sciencie, conversacionis honeste et humilitatis speculum solidissimum, sonoramque sancte predicacionis tubam, que minime in ostendendo plebi sua scelera raucescit, ecclesiasticum ad honorem erigi decrevistis! Eciam ad plura alia nostre Universitatis membra sancte pietatis[2] vestre pietas continue sue gracie ymbres distillare non cessavit, ad ejusdem nostre matris honorem et gaudium ineffabile:

[1] *atque graciosus* MS. [2] An error for *paternitatis*, no doubt.

pro quibus et similibus firmissime tenemus memoriale laudis preconium vos apud Deum et homines invenisse[1]. Graciosam dominacionis vestre continuacionem ad nos vestros humiles filios, ut ante sic in posterum, obsecramus in visceribus caritatis. Et reverenda vestra paternitas inter sanctos antistites in felicitate plena finaliter premietur. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Marcii die quarto.*

Testimonial letters issued for Master Michael Tregorre and Master John Tenys.

MEMORANDUM, quod tercio decimo die Februarii, anno Domini 1438.
millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo octavo, sigillata fuit una littera testimonialis, sub sigillo et forma communi, pro Magistro Michaele Tregorre, arcium magistro et baccallario theologie.

MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo septimo die mensis Marcii, anno 1439.
Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo nono, sigillata erat littera testimonialis, sub sigillo et forma communi, pro magistro Johanne Tenys arcium magistro.

Letter 'supplicatory' for Master John Tenys.

MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo octavo die mensis Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo octavo[2], sigillata erat una littera supplicatoria pro magistro J. Tenys, sub sigillo et forma communi.

Bequest to the Celtone chest received.

MEMORANDUM, quod tercio decimo die mensis Maij, magister Willel- 1439.
mus Hastyng et magister Thomas Bartelotte, custodes ciste de Celtone, receperunt de Johanne West et Willelmo Pygworth, executoribus magistri Ricardi Collyng, quondam socii aule Balliol, decem solidos sterlingorum legatos dicte ciste &c.

Acquittance of guardians of the old University Chest.

MEMORANDUM, quod tercio die Julii, anno Domini millesimo quad- 1439.
ringentesimo tricesimo nono, sigillata erat una acquietancia pro magistris Johanne Blakman et Johanne Segden, custodibus ciste antique Universitatis.

[1] This word alone is uncertain; the passage is evidently confused as usual by the scribe. [2] Apparently an error for *nono*; see prec. Mem.

Payment of debt to the University by Guardians of the old University Chest.

1439. MEMORANDUM, quod quarto die Julii, anno proxime suprascripto, receperunt magistri Willelmus Orell et Johannes Wylley, procuratores Universitatis, septem libras in auro, de magistris Johanne Bawman et Johanne Segden, custodibus antique ciste Universitatis, in partem solucionis decem librarum debitarum per eandem cistam Universitati.

Fol. 51 a.

Testimonial letter for Master Walter Wynall.

1439. MEMORANDUM, quod sexto die Julii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo nono, sigillata fuit una littera testimonialis, sub sigillo et forma communibus, pro magistro Waltero Wynall sacre theologie professore.

140.

To the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Lord Chancellor.

We are informed that one Master W. Koke, a member of this University and Principal of Greek Hall, is bringing a case before you to be tried, we beg you therefore to send the same back to us to be tried in our Chancellor's court; according to our privileges, which all our members are bound by their oath to maintain.

1439. REVERENDO in Christo patri et domino nostro, Domino Johanni, Dei gracia episcopo Wyllensi et Batoniensi ac Anglie Cancellario.

Reverende in Christo pater et domine, nostri studii splendor pariter et protector indeficiens, de cujus benevolis radiis illustramur continue, reverencias tanto domino debitas cum honore. Quociens nobis occurrit necessitudinis materia, summa confidencia ad paternitatem vestram, inflexibilem nostre Universitatis columpnam, recurrimus, auxilia et remedia recepturi. Cum enim ex tenore et vigore cujusdam privilegii, nobis ad quietem nostrorum studencium concessi, ad quos omnes et singuli inter nos graduati, vinculo suorum juramentorum, sunt firmiter astricti; quod, si altera pars scolaris fuerit, quevis causa personalis, suam habens originem in nostra Universitate, inter nos in eadem ventilari debeat et finiri—prout in cartis regiis et earum confirmacionibus inde nobis factis liquet manifeste—et jam quedam causa, mota inter Johannem Hyltone, nuper nostre Universitatis scolarem, et Willelmum Koke in utroque jure bacallarium, principalem aule Grece, trahitur per dictum Johannem, ut informamur, coram paternitate vestra terminanda, contra tenorem dictorum nostrorum privilegiorum:—Quocirca humili cervice deprecamur unanimiter,

quatenus graciose cum favore remittere dignemini dictam causam inter nos in eadem Universitate secundum tenorem nostrorum privilegiorum, ut prefertur, sicut consuevimus, terminandam. Firmissime enim tenemus paternitatem vestram nostra privilegia, laudabiles consuetudines et statuta velle tueri, nec pati penitus violari. Paternitatem vestram, nostris impressam devocionibus, ad ecclesie et cleri et regni decorem et munimentum, preservat incolumem cuncta Potens. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, Augusti die quinto.*

141.

To the Duke of Gloucester. Fol. 51 b.

We have received your ever memorable gift of one hundred and twenty volumes. Since the foundation of this University no prince or king has made so splendid a donation. The effect thereof will be to give light and life, warmth and nourishment to our studies, hitherto but dead and cold. The students flocking to us from every part of the world will now find the needful food and stimulus for their minds. Such a gift is worthy of your wisdom and learning; by which, no less than by your military renown, the kingdom is made illustrious; and it will be an everlasting monument of your fame. Julius Caesar founded a library at Rome to preserve by books the fame of his conquest of the world, when human memory should fail: we, however, while we live, will do our best to keep in memory your noble benefaction, by binding ourselves and our successors to celebrate a mass for your soul both now and after your death for ever.

Serenissimo principi et domino, Domino Humfrido, duci[1] Gloucestrie, 1439.
comiti Pembrochie, magno camerario Anglie, nostro graciosissimo protectori.

Serenissime atque illustrissime princeps, excellentissimum cunctisque non immerito seculis celcitudinis vestre munus quam maxime recolendum,—centum videlicet atque viginti volumina, per ejusdem celsitudinis vestre dilectos et preclaros nuncios Gilbertum Kymere doctorem et medicum peritissimum, et Radulphum Drewe utriusque juris baccalarium, vicesimo die mensis jam instantis ad nos presentata,—omni qua decuit veneracione suscepimus. Quod itaque dignissimum munus, inclitissime princeps, in quantum nobis et cessit et cedit indies solacium facile intelligi non potest; cum citra felicissime memorie Aluredum regem, hujus alme Universitatis matris nostre fundatorem, nullum retroacta etate regum aut principum tantum, tam amplum, tamque magnificum reminiscamur nobis beneficium contulisse. Quidquid enim

[1] *duce* MS.

serioris etatis reges ac principes, incliti progenitores vestri, ad ipsam Universitatem augendam atque amplificandam operis seu laboris impenderint, respectu tamen clarissimorum donorum vestrorum totum id modicum satis visum est. Priori enim tempore et ante ipsam graciosissimam visitacionem vestram, quam haut dubium est ab alto processisse, Universitas nostra sine dubio fuerat velut corpus exanime, lucerna sine lumine, fons sine aqua et mundus sine sole; que jam benignissima inspiracione vestra corpus vitale effecta est, lucerna clarissimo lumine, et quod nunquam extinguetur irradians, fons aquis vivificis ad studencium animos consolandos exhuberans, et mundus splendidissimo sole, qui utique haud unquam patietur eclipsim studiorum, mentes illustrans; cum ex singulis mundi partibus ad hanc almam Universitatem studii gracia confluentes, quod ipsos vivificet, fecundet, illustret, illic[1] jam cum summa liberalitate jam et facilitate maxima invenire valebunt. Et hoc est revera, gloriosissime princeps, quod maxime decuit serenitatem vestram—cujus tanta est virtutis, sapiencie et sciencie magnitudo, quod regnum hoc inclitum nostrum non ea minus quam bellorum gloria sublimetur; nec usquam hujus florentissimi regni fama celebris existit nisi et quo nomen tanti principis veneratione[2] maxima colitur:—non mortalia seu transitoria sed vera pocius atque eterna, omnibusque nacionibus loquencia et in omnem patriam pergencia monumenta relinquere. Que sane monumenta relicta sunt tot, supple, preclara ac preciosa volumina apud nos perpetuis futuris temporibus expectare debencia, que etsi lingue hominum defecerunt, tanti tamque gloriosi principis famam nunquam abscondent. Unde et Julius Cesar orbe subacto parum nimis sese egisse visus est, nisi et bibliothecam Rome construeret; ut si nominis viriumque suarum famam per temporis longitudinem ab hominum mentibus labi contingeret, ipsis tamen libris et membraneis[3] recens semper perduret. Quod cum hujusmodi apud nos fueritis qualis ipse Julius apud Romanos fuerat, id ipsumque per omnia nobis beneficium contuleritis; si ullo unquam tempore, quod absit, celsitudinem vestram oblitum esse vellemus, ipsa tamen librorum ac voluminum recentissima monumenta apud nos continue perseverabunt[4]. Veruntamen utcunque valemus, et nobis successoribusque nostris ejus rei memoriam imprimamus, pro temporalibus beneficiis ipsa que possumus spiritualia suffragia ependentes, ad unam missam perpetuis futuris temporibus pro anime vestre salutem tam in vita quam in morte per Universitatem decantandam, ipsam Universitatem firmissima obligacione astrinximus. Statuta insuper varia pro firma et perpetua custodia ipsorum volu-

[1] *illuc* MS. [2] *venerationis* ib. [3] *membrariis* ib. [4] *prosever-* ib.; word partially lost.

minum librorumque confecimus. Que omnia per dictum preclarum virum, clericum nunciumque vestrum specialem, Radulphum Drewe, vestri celsitudini destinamus: cui fidem adhibere dignetur vestra graciosissima dominacio, humiliter quesumus, in dicendis. Et serenitatem vestram ad perpetuam regni ac studii nostri gloriam Dominus feliciter conservet. Vestre serenitatis humillima oratrix Universitas Oxoniensis[1].

Indenture between the Duke of Gloucester and the University, Fol. 52 a.

Whereby the latter acknowledges the receipt of one hundred and twenty volumes from the hands of his messengers, master Gilbert Kymer and master Ralph Drewe; as also the receipt of other nine volumes previously, from the hands of other special messengers.

Hec indentura, facta Oxonie vicesimo quinto die mensis Novembris, 1439.
anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo nono, et anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum decimo octavo, inter serenissimum et illustrissimum principem et dominum inclitissimum, Dominum Humfridum, regum filium, fratrem et patruum, ducem Gloucestrie, comitem Pembrochie et magnum camerarium Anglie ex una parte; ac suam humillimam et perpetuam oratricem Universitatem Oxoniensem ex parte altera; testatur, quod dicta Universitas de summa et magnificentissima liberalitate predicti inclitissimi principis centum et viginti volumina, per dilectos et speciales nuncios suos, magistrum Gilbertum Kymere, medicinarum doctorem, et Radulphum Drewe, utriusque juris baccalarium, ad ipsam Universitatem destinata recepit; necnon et novem alia volumina per eundem cerenissimum principem, per alios prius nuncios suos, ad eandem Universitatem transmissa; quorum utique voluminum nomina, cum iniciis secundorum foliorum, inferius ad perpetuam rei memoriam[2] describuntur

Inprimis, prima pars Nicholai de lira .	secundo folio	*tur eam.*
Item, secunda pars ejusdem . .	,,	*iste cum*[3].
Item, tercia pars ejusdem . . .	,,	*cionis in.*
Item, prima pars diccionarii . .	,,	*similia.*
Item, secunda pars ejusdem . .	,,	*de statu.*
Item, tercia pars ejusdem . .	,,	*pro eo.*
Item, quarta pars ejusdem . .	,,	*subintrare.*
Item, biblia	,,	*puerilia.*
Item, concordantia biblie . . .	,,	*de abisso.*

[1] There is an infrascription, verbatim as the suprascription, in the case of this letter, in the MS. [2] *rememoriam* ib. [3] or *tamen* ib.

Item, Eusebius '*In ecclesiastica historia*' cum Beda '*De gestis Anglorum*'	secundo folio	*candidi.*
Item, *Tripartita historia* . . .	,,	*anime.*
Item, Beda '*Super actus Apostolorum*'	,,	*Pauli.*
Item, opus Gilberti Poretani '*Super Cantica canticorum*' . . .	,,	*tes.*
Item, Ricardus de Sancto Victore .	,,	*mento.*
Item, Origenes '*Super librum Numeri*'	,,	*persequebatur.*
Item, '*Psalterium glosatum*' . .	,,	*sequitur.*
Item, Johannes Derror '*Super historiam scripture*'	,,	*ciora.*
Item, Musca '*Super Cantica canticorum*'	,,	*cognacionem.*
Item, Prima pars '*Pantheologi*' .	,,	*desederiorum.*
Item, secunda pars ejusdem . .	,,	*tanquam.*
Item, '*Consolaciones theologie*,' Johannis de Cambaco . . .	,,	*repugnacio.*
Item, Flores certorum librorum Augustini	,,	*et non.*
Item, Prima pars Petri Damiani .	,,	*procedere.*
Item, Secunda pars ejusdem . .	,,	*ejus.*
Item, Franciscus '*De vita solitaria*' .	,,	*ut frugum.*
Item, Beda '*De temporibus*' . .	,,	*ciati.*
Item, Tabula super diversos libros Augustini	,,	*quod amor.*
Item, Epistole Cassiodori . . .	,,	*odium docet.*
Item, Epistole Augustini . . .	,,	*gente.*
Item, Epistole Hieronymi . . .	,,	*immo.*
Item, Epistole Ambrosii . . .	,,	*unusquisque.*
Item, Petrus de Vineis, et Epistole Petri Blesensis	,,	*quibus.*
Item, '*Tabula originalium*' . .	,,	*accedere.*
Item, Epistole Cypriane . . .	,,	*bene.*
Item, Questiones theologie . .	,,	*-telligenciis.*
Fol. 52 b. Item, Athanasius '*De Trinitate*' .	,,	*unus bonus.*
Item, Augustinus '*De sermone Domini in monte*'	,,	*-titudinem.*
Item, Lactantius '*Divinarum institucionum*'	,,	*cacodicendi.*
Item, Liber Juliani episcopi '*De origine mortis humane*'	,,	*est alterne.*

Item, Seneca '*De causis*' . . .	secundo folio	*-nombris.*
Item, Liber '*De extraccione sermonum*' cum dictis Lincoln. . . .	,,	*nunquam.*
Item, Cato moralizatus . . .	,,	*tercio.*
Item, Liber Aristotelis '*De anima*,' cum commento, et Averoisi '*Super Etica*'	,,	*telligitur.*
Item, Liber '*Eticorum*' . . .	,,	*canit hos.*
Item, '*Policraticon*' . . .	,,	*exercentes.*
Item, Isidorus '*In Ethimologiis*' .	,,	*in altero.*
Item, Franciscus '*Rerum memorandarum*'	,,	*annis.*
Item, Liber Platonis	,,	*ex quo.*
Item, '*Etica*' Aristotelis traducta per Leonardum Aleatinum . . .	,,	*Omerus.*
Item, '*Politeca*' Aristotelis traducta per eundem	,,	*inicium rerum.*
Item, Seneca '*De brevitate vite*' .	,,	*quaceat.*
Item, Franciscus '*De remediis fortuitorum*'	,,	*exempla.*
Item, Tullius '*De officiis*' . . .	,,	*placet.*
Item, Libri Galieni	,,	*bene carnosum.*
Item, '*Compendium medicine*' secundum Gilbertium . . .	,,	*maxime.*
Item, *Exposicio super afforismos Ypocratis*	,,	*corpus.*
Item, *Liber afforismorum* . . .	,,	*Thomam.*
Item, *Exposicio super artem medicine*	,,	*quod sumitur.*
Item, Bernardus '*De urinis*' . .	,,	*-vente.*
Item, Alexander Gerosophista . .	,,	*libris.*
Item, Galenus '*De elementis*' . .	,,	*aliquid cujus.*
Item, Tercius et quintus liber canonum Avicenne	,,	*contingat.*
Item, Vincencius '*Super libros Ypocratis*'	,,	*in mente.*
Item, Constantinus '*in Pantegni*' .	,,	*egritudinem.*
Item, '*Lilium*' Bernardi de Gordonio	,,	*pilantibus.*
Item, Petrus Hispanus '*De pulsibus*' .	,,	*omnes.*
Item, Egidius '*De urinis*' cum Arte Medicine	,,	*ruperat.*
Item, Haly Abbas '*De disposicione regali*'	,,	*-dit eciam.*

Item, Serapion '*De simplicibus medicinis*'	secundo folio	*incisio.*
Item, '*Collectarium*' Averoise . .	,,	*dum sint.*
Item, Serapion '*In practica*' . .	,,	*et stercorum.*
Item, Rasis '*Ad Almasorem*' . .	,,	*tribuunt.*
Item, '*Cirurgigia*' Brunii . .	,,	*si autem.*
Item, Bartholomeus '*In practica*' .	,,	*soleat.*
Item, Isaac '*De febribus*' . . .	,,	*re tacuisti.*
Item, Gerardus '*Super viaticum*' .	,,	*istorum.*
Item, '*Passionarium*' Theodosii presbiteri	,,	*ad arcam.*
Item, '*Exposicio super nono Almazoris*'	,,	*si.*
Item, Gerardus '*De modo medendi*' .	,,	*facies.*
Item, Liber medicine . . .	,,	*pipere.*
Item, Mesue '*De simplicibus et compositis*'	,,	*amari.*
Fol. 53 a. Item, Platearius '*De simplicibus*' .	,,	*dentur.*
Item, Willelmus de Saliceto *vel* Placencia	,,	*cum assignat.*
Item, Plinius '*De naturis rerum*' .	,,	*quem.*
Item, Liber philosophorum Aristotelis condict[1]	,,	*Democritus.*
Item, '*Aphorismi*' Ursonis cum commento	,,	*potencialium.*
Item, '*Tabula*' Belingam . . .	,,	*materia.*
Item, Aristotelis '*De mundo*' . .	,,	*Hercules.*
Item, '*Questiones super diversos libros medicine*'	,,	*modo.*
Item, Avicenna et Albertus '*In diversis philosophie contentis*' . . .	,,	*compositis.*
Item, '*Compendium philosophie*' .	,,	*qui continet.*
Item, Albertus '*Super libros*[2] *metheor*'	,,	*sicut ee.*
Item, Albertus '*De animalibus*' .	,,	*latine.*
Item, *Metaphisica* Avicenne . .	,,	*naturalia.*
Item, Tragedie Senece . . .	,,	*ferax.*
Item, Liber Alfragani et Alicen .	,,	*et lunam.*
Item, Bacon '*De celo et mundo*' .	,,	*quia in qualibet.*
Item, Haly Abenragel . . .	,,	*per hanc.*
Item, Idem in secunda parte de eisdem	,,	*quod mulier.*
Item, Egidius '*De Cometis*' . .	,,	*alii*[3].

[1] This word is so ambiguous that it may be almost anything. [2] *librorum* MS.
[3] *-teriit* is erased, but faintly, before *alii* ib.

Item, Zael '*De judiciis astrorum*' .	secundo folio	*-teriit.*
Item, Albamazar '*In magno Introductorio*'	,,	*quin.*
Item, Tabula medie conjunccionis solis et lune	,,	*equalem.*
Item, Liber astronomie cum diversis tabulis	,,	*ciclus.*
Item, Zael '*De vita hominis*' . .	,,	*aspiciebat.*
Item, Liber *Almagesti* . . .	,,	*logicum.*
Item, Liber '*Thebet*' . . .	,,	*magnorum.*
Item, '*Summa astronomie*' Aschyndone	,,	*nubes.*
Item, '*Tripertitum*' Tholomei . .	,,	*comprehensorum.*
Item, Tabula '*De motibus planetarum*'	,,	*sinistra.*
Item, '*Panagericon*' Porphyrii . .	,,	*hac pagina.*
Item, Oraciones Tullii . . .	,,	*aut quelibet.*
Item, Epistole Nicholai de Clemengiis	,,	*-stodia.*
Item, Opera viginti duo Tullii in magno volumine	,,	*additus.*
Item, Epistole Tullii '*ad Quintum fratrem*'	,,	*persuasim.*
Item, '*Bellum Troje cum secretis secretorum*'	,,	*ejus.*
Item, Epistole Collusii . . .	,,	*captus.*
Item, Epistole Tullii '*familiares*' .	,,	*nactus.*
Item, Quinctilianus '*De institucione oratoris*'	,,	*rei.*
Item, Macrobius '*Saturnalium*' .	,,	*quippe.*
Item, '*Verrine*' Ciceronis et '*Philippica*' ejusdem	,,	*in judicium.*
Item, '*Rhetorica*' Tullii . . .	,,	*si res.*
Item, Boccasius '*De genealogia*[1] *Deorum gentilium*[2]' . . .	,,	*humeris.*
Item, *Glosarius*	,,	*arbitrari.*
Item, Apulius '*De asino aureo*' . .	,,	*proclivis.*
Item, '*Catholicon*' Januensis . .	,,	*-totatur.*
Item, Priscianus in majori[3] . .	,,	*generalibus.*
Item, Aulius Gellius '*Noccium Atticarum*'.	,,	*Teofrastus.*
Item, *Exposicio super Valerium Maximum*	,,	*ibi.*

[1] *geneologie* MS. [2] *gentilis* ib. [3] *Pris. in mari.* ib.

In quorum omnium fidem et testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis predicte presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, die et anno supradictis*[1].

142.

Fol. 53 b. **To the Speaker, Knights, and Burgesses of Parliament.**

To oure ryght worshypfull syres, the Speker, Knygthes and burges of this worshypfull parliment of oure sovereyn lorde Kyng.

1439. Ryght worshypfull syres, grace, pece and prosperite be to yow, to Goddis worshyp and to the gode welth of the reme of Englond ever duryng. Worthy syres, for as moch that meny of yowr owne issu and also Kynnesmen hath be, beth now, and shall be in tyme commyng tenderly and bisely noryshed and avaunced with the rype frute of Konnyng in oure moder the Universite of Oxon; in to the glory and the worshyp of Godd in speciall, and to the mayntenaunce of Crysten fayth, causyng of wyse men in the reme, and to yow grete joy, confort and eternall mede, that causeth supporteth and forthefyth such studiers; Therfore we conceyvyth that your naturesses and benevolence shold enjoy with us of the fortheraunce of the sayde Universite; and because oure ryth speciall lorde and myghty prince, the Duke of Gloucestre, hathe late endoed and so magnified oure sayde Universite with a thousand pound worth and more of preciose bokeȝ, to the lovyng of Godd, encrece of clergy and konnyng men; to the goode governaunce and prosperite of the Reme of Englond withoute end, before all other remes and contres of the world: Wherffore we beseche your sage discrecions to consider the gloriose yiftes of the graciose prince to oure sayde Universite, for the comyn profyte and worshyp of the reme, to thanke hym hertyly and also prey Godd to thanke hym in tyme commyng, wher goode dedys ben rewarded. And oure lord Godd so inspire and governe yow to His plesaunce with helyth of soule and body. *Wryte at Oxon, die superiori.* All the hole Universite of Oxon.

143.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The glory of your beneficent labours for the church and clergy is so bright that, as owls in daylight, we are dazzled beholding it. Other

[1] A late hand writes on the margin *Summa* 129. *Postea*, p. 60, *fit mentio novem aliorum voluminum ab his distinctorum. Postea epistola* 158, p. 63, *mentio fit* 139 *voluminum. Postea*, p. 67, *mentio fit* 135 *voluminum.*

prelates do not put in practice your provision for the promotion of graduates; wherefore we humbly beg that in the convocation of the province of Canterbury you will enforce the same by penalties for disobedience thereto.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati et apostolice sedis legato, Universitatis nostre singularissimo defensori. 1439.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, domine clementissime, necnon ampliator nostri gloriosissime, cujus pro felici statu utinam nostrarum oracionum incensum coram Deo acceptabilem, cum subjeccione humillima filiali. Letabundus exsurgit in devotissimas quas valet graciarum acciones filiorum vestrorum humilium cordialis affectus. Sed graciosissime vestre paternitatis beneficia magnificaque opera, que in ecclesie Dei munimen et tocius cleri desiderandissimam excrescenciam redundant, tante fame celebritate irradiari non desinunt, quod nostre devocionis commendative jubar et laudes, quamvis eadem digne promulgare conemur, tamen propter nostram insufficienciam, necnon propter eorum amplitudinem magnificam, in ipsorum descripcione deficiunt, velut oculi noctue ante solis faciem caligantur. O piissimum pastorem, O gratissimum patrem! cujus permaxima beneficia et piissima opera circa filios perhumiles celo plusquam mundo perpetuo registrantur. Paternali eciam provisione pro graduatorum promocione ex concentu cordium unanimi gratulantes, humillima graciarum tributa cum prostrato spiritu gratulamus. Verum quia nonnulli ecclesie prelati et patres negligenter et obliviose, ut informamur, postponunt provisionem illam effectui demandare; igitur vestre paternitatis pietatem precelsam pro reformacionis remedio, dum in hac parte solacia non sentimus omnino, ut scicientes ad fontem, pauperes ad potentem, ut humiles filii ad graciosum patrem recurrimus, pro hujus rei remedio et antidota[1] salutari: supplicantes humillime quatenus dignetur vestra paternalis gracia eandem vestram provisionem, ne frustretur effectu, in convocacione vestra universalis cleri vestre Cantuariensis provincie sub infligenda pena pro futuris temporibus[2] roborare: ut filii vestri, sic per vestram ordinacionem, ab Universitate in culturam divine vinee, et a contemplacione in operam feliciter evocandi, tam vobis quam diei natalis vestri affluentissime et merito benedicant; dum sic per vos ecclesie accipiant colonos ydoneos, et viri litteratissimi ob suas virtutes, ut congruit, premientur. Nunciis nostris inclinatas aures gracie et favoris, in pro parte nostra dicendis, quatinus impendere dignemini, obnixius obsecramus. Utinam pater-

[1] *antitoda* MS. [2] *temporis* ib.

nitas vestra tam gratissima quam piissima diu sit Domino in votis, ad ecclesie munimen et vestrorum solamina filiorum.

Scriptum, &c.

144.

Fol. 54 a. **To the Archbishop of Canterbury and other members of the Convocation at London.**

We have on several occasions laid our complaints before you as to the deplorable condition of this University. Formerly the fruitful mother of children she has now become as a childless widow. Our students are few, the Inns are empty of scholars. We have said before, and cease not now to urge that this state of the University is a great injury to the Church of England. If the virtuous and learned obtain no reward, but find themselves in poverty and forsaken in their old age, what must the effect be on the minds of the younger students? Will they not infer that the pursuit of learning is unprofitable? We ask that the 'provincial constitution' for the promotion of graduates may be enforced by penalty.

1439. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, ceterisque reverendis patribus in convocacione cleri Londoniensi existentibus, nostris dominis graciosis.

In omni humilitatis spiritu, nos ipsos ut decet, cum omnimodis reverencia et honore. In Christo Reverendissimi patres, domini percelebres, columpne firmissime ecclesie militantis, paternales vestras clemencias graciosissimas pulsavit plerisque querelis Universitas mater nostra, ejus dispendia et desolationes[1] maximas proponendo; videlicet quod, olim mater prole fecunda hiis jam diebus facta fere sine liberis vidua, sicque in ignominiam versa, ut lutum platearum derelicta est squalida; paucissimos habens incolas, sed tantum hospicia vacua et habitacula desolata, in maximum dispendium tocius ecclesie Anglicane. Que eapropter contigisse suggessimus et adhuc suggerere non desistimus, quum meritis et eminencie[2] in sciencia litteratissimorum virorum in Universitatibus studencium minime provisum fuerat, eos in excolendam vineam Domini Sabaoth statim post adeptam margaritam sciencie ad operam feliciter evocari; sed nonnullos doctissimos, usque ad vite sue vesperam et ipsam mortem, sine premiis virtutum in militante ecclesia evanescere[3] et perire; in juvenum studencium perniciosissimum exemplum et a studio alliciens subterfugium; dum utrobique per mundum simplices, qui litteraturas non noverint, viderint ad dignitates ecclesiasticas sublimari. Qua in re, ut paratissimi in

[1] *dissolationes* MS. [2] *imminencie* corrected in MS. [3] *evanescit* MS.

clemenciam patres, ut virtutis et sciencie zelatissimi amatores, dignum duxistis erigere constitucionem in cleri marcescentis subsidium et felicissimum incrementum; ob quam letantissime in graciarum exsurgimus acciones. Sane habemus sanctum rei inicium. Sed et piissima affeccio patrum; quibus tam celebriter tam clementer meritis provectorum in scienciis per condigna premia proponitur subvenire. Sed, ut accepimus, nonnulli ecclesie patres provisionem vestram negligenter et obliviose postponunt ducere in operis complementum. Propterea nec adhuc tacere potest Universitas mater nostra, quin magis ac magis, sub spe exaudicionis, ad sui refugium, patres piissimos, clamando recurrat; ut ad tam miserande matris justas instancias hec vestra celeberrima sinodus, quam et sanctam esse confidimus, mota misericordie visceribus votis suis feliciter annuat, peticiones exaudiat; ut videlicet ordinacionem vestram, pro graduatorum in Universitatibus existencium promocione, sic roboretis [1] sufficiente sub pena; ne, quod absit, id quod vestra sacra sinodus fieri decreverat, ob sui non-executionem nomen frustratorie opere et constitucionis majus merito sorciatur. Sane dedecus grande, damnabile dispendium, si reverendissimorum patrum institucio tam sancta sic irreverenter periret cassata. Quid diceretur? quid in ore hominum esset? Sane scimus. '*Quid prodest studium, quid sapiencia, quid labor inutilis; cum nec decennialis pro litteratissimorum promocione directa provisio stare temporis minimo potuit curriculo?*' Aspicite igitur felicissimi in ecclesia patroni, lucidissima ecclesie luminaria, quatinus sub pena non infringenda pro graduatorum promocione vestra muniatur sanccio sacra: ut sic, quos amor justicie in legis et institucionis vestre execucionem non allicit, timor pene coherceat et impellat. Et vestras piissimas paternitates in sue ecclesie fulcimentum longevet in terrenis noster Dominus Jesus Christus; Cui sint honor et gloria in secula. Amen. *Scriptum sub sigillo nostro in nostre Congregacionis domo, Decembris die septimo.* Humillima vestrarum paternitatum oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Statuta veteris Bibliothecae [2]. Fol. 54 b.

For the secure custody of the books given by the duke of Gloucester a new register shall be made and deposited in the chest 'of five keys,' in which, as in all the statute-books of the University, the names of the volumes shall be entered; as also at the beginning of each volume, with the contents of each volume, shall be written the first words of the second folio.

[1] *roboretis* added over the line by a somewhat later hand, MS. [2] This title in a modern hand.

1439. Universis Christi fidelibus presentibus et futuris pateat manifeste, quod vicesimo quinto die mensis Novembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo nono, Universitas Oxoniensis statuit et ordinavit, Imprimis, pro firma et perpetua custodia largissime et magnificentissime donacionis centum viginti novem voluminum, per serenissimum principem et dominum inclitissimum dominum Humfridum, regum filium, fratrem et patruum, ducem Gloucestrie[1], comitem Pembrochie, et magnum camerarium Anglie, prefate Universitati ex summa sua liberalitate donatorum, et quorumcumque voluminum in futurum per eundem serenissimum principem donandorum, ut fiat unum novum registrum in cista quinque clavium reponendum; in quo, et in singulis libris statutorum Universitatis predicte, necnon et in principiis dictorum voluminum omnia nomina eorundem, cum suis contentis universis et cum principiis secundorum foliorum, seriatim, aperte, et expresse registrentur: ut sic liquide omnibus apparere poterit, si quod dictorum voluminum seu contentorum eorumdem, quantumcunque rarum ignotumque fuerit, perditum, subtractum, distractum, dilaceratum vel ablatum sit.

No volume, or any part or sheet of any volume shall, upon any pretence whatsoever, be sold, given, exchanged, pledged, lent to be copied in separate sheets, or removed from the library, except for repair; provided nevertheless, that the duke of Gloucester may, by indenture between himself and the University, borrow any volume for a stated term.

Item, predicta Universitas statuit et ordinavit, ut nullum predictorum voluminum seu librorum aut contentorum in eisdem ullo unquam tempore, quocunque quesito colore vendatur, donetur, permutetur, vel impignoretur, aut alicui pro copia quaternatim tradatur seu accomodetur, nec extra communem librariam dicte Universitatis deportetur, nisi aliquod ipsorum voluminum aut librorum ligandum reparandumve fuerit: in quo eciam casu absque mora, et quam cicius fieri poterit, ligetur, reparetur, et, cum ligatum ac reparatum fuerit, ad librariam communem statim reportetur: proviso tamen semper, quod si prefatus princeps, per suas litteras speciales aliquod ipsorum voluminum pro certo tempore duxerit mutuandum[2], ut, sub indenturis suis, inter serenitatem suam et dictam Universitatem inde conficiendis, idem volumen, certo tamen et diffinito tempore restituendum, ab Universitate indilate et per viam mutui liberetur. Hoc statutum ita stricte observetur, ut[3] non liceat congregacioni regencium per aliquam graciam cum eodem dispensare.

[1] *Gloucestre* MS. [2] *mutuendum* ib. [3] *ut* omitted ib.

All books (whether of this or any other future donation) for study of the seven liberal arts and three philosophies shall be kept in a chest, provided for that purpose in the library, and placed under the custody of the librarian by indenture between him and the University; and may be borrowed by masters of arts, actually lecturing in those subjects, also by indenture between such masters and the said librarian, and, under certain circumstances, by Principals of halls. And it is provided that the Librarian shall every year render an account of the books, and in every indenture the names of the books, and other particulars, as above mentioned, shall be written; and each book shall have a price set upon it, exceeding its real value, in case of loss to be instantly paid to the University, so that a similar book may be provided as soon as possible.

Item, statutum et ordinatum est per eandem Universitatem, quod omnes et singuli libri, alias per eundem serenissimum principem pro lectura septem arcium liberalium et trium philosophiarum, necnon et per alios ad eundem usum collati, seu in futurum conferendi, in quadam cista, per Universitatem ad hoc ordinanda, in communi libraria Universitatis sub custodia custodis ejusdem, per indenturas inter dictam Universitatem et dictum pro tempore existente[1] confectas, reponantur: que quidem[2] cista in futurum vocabitur '*cista trium philosophiarum et septem scienciarum liberalium*'; ad effectum quod magistris arcium, dictas sciencias actualiter et publice in scolis arcium legentibus seu **Fol. 55 a.** legere volentibus, per indenturas inter dictum custodem et dictos magistros conficiendas, deliberentur. Quod si contingat aliquam ipsarum scienciarum actualiter non legi, ex tunc principalibus aularum et aliis magistris quibuscumque, pro utilitate et commodo suarum scolarium, sub indenturis eciam eorumdem per custodem liberentur; prestito per eos prius corporali juramento, quod custodi ciste predicte de ipsorum librorum in die cessationis cujuslibet termini fidelem restitutionem faciant[3]: proviso insuper, quod predictus custos, quum reddere seu deliberare debebit claves sui officii, singulis annis, fidelem reddat compotum de eisdem; quod eciam in singulis indenturis, sic ut prefertur faciendis, contenta librorum, cum principiis secundorum foliorum, expresse scribantur. Et, ut major dictos libros custodiendi detur occasio, dicta Universitas statuit et ordinavit, ut quilibet ipsorum librorum notabiliter ultra verum valorem apprecietur: quem quidem valorem Universitati fideliter persolvendum, quicumque hujusmodi librum vel libros per viam mutui recipiens, si ipsum librum vel ipsos libros amittere vel perdere contingat, appellacione et dilacione quacumque postposita, dicte ciste solvere teneatur; ut de summa recepta

[1] The word *custodem* seems to be omitted MS. [2] *quedam* ib. [3] *faciat* ib.

liber alius, apparatus et forme consimilis, quam cicius fieri poterit, ordinetur.

Having no other means of rewarding the donor, than by a spiritual recompense, we have appointed by statute that every year during his life, on the feast of SS. Simon and Jude, or as near thereto as may be, mass 'of the Trinity,' or 'of the Blessed Virgin Mary,' with special collects naming the Duke and his Duchess, shall be said for their prosperity: and that, at every mass said by the Chaplain of the University, the name of the Duke shall be mentioned along with other benefactors. And, on occasion of every sermon of whatsoever kind at St. Mary's church, the preacher shall expressly and by name pray for the said Duke; and, after his departure from this world, within ten days of that event, the University shall celebrate his obit: and every year, on the anniversary of his death, or as nearly as may be, mass, with special collects mentioning them by name, for the repose of his soul and that of his consort (after her death), and for the souls of all the faithful departed, shall be solemnly said for ever.

Item, cum tam ampla tamque magnifica sint dicti excellentissimi principis nobis indulta beneficia, quod omnino imbecilles et invalidi sumus condignam excogitare recompensam, ut tamen pro temporalibus beneficiis, ea que valemus, spiritualia beneficia rependamus, statuit et ordinavit dicta Universitas, ut, annis singulis, quam diu dictus illustrissimus, litteratissimus, eciam scientissimus princeps vitam duxerit in humanis, in festo Simonis et Jude, si tunc absque impedimento poterit, seu die aliquo infra triduum ante vel post, quo hujusmodi impedimentum non occurret, pro felici ac prospero statu ejusdem principis, necnon et domine Alianore consortis sue, missa '*de Trinitate*,' seu '*de Beatissima Virgine Maria*,' cum collecta '*Omnipotens sempiterne Deus, miserere famulo tuo Humfrido et famule tue Alianore*,' cum expressione videlicet nominum suorum, secundum formam et modum pro regibus et principibus in dicta Universitate actenus consueta, ab ipsa Universitate solemniter decantetur: quodque in singulis missis, per capellanum communem dicte Universitatis publice et solemniter celebrandis, ut mos est, pro aliis Universitatis benefactoribus, quoad prefatus princeps vixerit, specialis de ipso memoria habeatur, cum predicta collecta, '*Omnipotens sempiterne Deus*,' et sui nominis, ut prefertur, expressione: quodque in singulis collacionibus, et sermonibus examinatoriis, excusatoriis, seu aliis quibuscunque in ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis Oxonie diebus dominicis et aliis publice faciendis, cujuscunque generis aut condicionis doctor vel bacularius—qui hujusmodi collacionem seu sermonem facere

debeat—fuerit, pro predicto principe expresse et nominatim exorare teneatur: ut eciam, cum ab luce predictus famosissimus et nobilissimus princeps assumptus fuerit, cum primo id Universitati constiterit, infra decem dies obitum suum faciat ipsa Universitas honorifice celebrari. Necnon ut extunc, annis singulis perpetuis futuris temporibus, in anniversario sui obitus, aut, si ipse dies minime conveniens fuerit, in proxima die ad ipsum negocium aptiori, missam pro anima ejus, et anima domine Alianore consortis sue, cum ab hac luce migraverit, Fol. 55 b. animabusque omnium fidelium defunctorum, cum collectis nomina sua specificantibus, decantare solempniter teneatur, prout utique pro aliis regibus et principibus, ipsius videlicet Universitatis benefactoribus, actenus fieri consuevit. Acta et statuta sunt hec in congregacione solemni regencium et non-regencium in ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis predicte solemniter celebrata, ex unanimi consensu regencium et non-regencium, existentibus Cancellario nato dicte Universitatis magistro Johanne Burbach, sacre theologie professore, et procuratoribus ejusdem magistris Willelmo Orell et Johanne Wylley, vicesimo quinto die mensis Novembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo nono. Ad premissa autem omnia et singula fideliter et sine fraude perpetuo facienda, et inviolabiliter observanda, obligamus nos et successores nostros per presentes; et ea omnia et singula facere et observare promittimus bona fide. Et ut prefata nostra statuta ordinaciones et concessiones robur obtineant perpetue firmitatis, presentes litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes communi nostre Universitatis sigillo sigillatas, in fidem et testimonium omnium premissorum. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo die et anno superius expressatis.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

MEMORANDUM, quod septimo decimo die mensis Decembris, anno 1439. Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo nono, in plena congregacione sigillata est acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Enensham, de annua pensione sedecim solidorum debita Universitati per eosdem, propter depascendos pauperes in die S. Nicholai eodem anno.

Indenture between the University and Thomas Elkyn, stonemason.

While employed on the new Divinity Schools, the salary of the stonemason shall be four shillings a week in summer, and three shillings and fourpence in winter. He shall employ good workmen. He shall have an annual salary also of one mark. Whereas many great people and wise object to too much ornament, the mason shall alter it, particularly the canopies of the images, the casements, fillets, &c.

1439. Hec indentura, facta inter Universitatem Oxoniensem ex parte una, et Thomam Elkyn, lathomum, ex parte altera, testatur quod dictus Thomas manucepit edificacionem novarum scolarum sacre theologie in Universitate predicta, in quantum pertinet ad lathomiam: et predictus Thomas recipiet septimanatim per estatem quatuor solidos sterlingorum, et per yemem tres solidos et quatuor denarios; quando contingat ipsum ebdomadatim ibidem presencialiter sic operari. Eciam dictus Thomas introducet alios lathomos, meliores quos sciverit, et meliori precio quo poterit, ad proficuum dicti operis: numerus vero eorum erit pro voluntate supravisorum dicti operis. Et dictus Thomas recipiet ab eadem Universitate annuatim in dicto opere unam marcam sterlingorum, pro annua pensione sua. Et quia plures magnates regni et alii sapientes non approbant, sed reprehendunt, nimiam curiositatem incepti dicti operis, igitur dicta Universitas vult quod dictus Thomas retrahet deinceps, sicut jam retrahere incepit, supervacuam talem curiositatem dicti operis, videlicet in tabernaculis ymaginum[1], . . . casimentis et fylettis, et in aliis frivolis curiositatibus, que ad rem non pertinent, sed ad nimias et sumptuosas expensas dicte Universitatis et ad nimiam dicti operis tardacionem. Et ad dictas convenciones ex parte dicti Thome fideliter tenendas et observandas idem Thomas obligat se per presentes dicte Universitati in quadraginta libris sterlingorum. In cujus rei testimonium tam sigillum commune dicte Universitatis quam sigillum dicti Thome his scriptis indentatis sunt appensa. *Datum Oxonie sexto decimo die Januarii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum octodecimo*: Magistro Ricardo Riderham, sacre theologie doctore, dicte Universitatis Cancellario, Willelmo Orell et Johanne Willey procuratoribus ejusdem ad tunc existentibus.

Fol. 56 a. **Acquittances of Eynsham and Oseney Abbeys.**

1439. Memorandum, quod undecimo die Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo nono, sigillata est acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Enensham, de annua pensione duorum et quinquaginta solidorum.

Item, eodem die sigillata acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Oseneya, de pensione annua viginti sex solidorum octo denariorum.

[1] A word here imperfect, apparently *bate et*; can it be *batelmentis*?

145.

To the King.

It is in vain that your majesty's forefathers have planted the vineyard and hedged it about for the protection of the vines, unless the defences are maintained. For the privileges of the University, which are its defence, are threatened by the vexatious prosecution of Master J. Gorsech, on account of official acts during his chancellorship. We beg that your majesty will give orders to the judges of your court to respect our privileges, and also summon N. Bury, the prosecutor in the case, to answer before yourself in person.

SERENISSIME princeps et regum Christianissime; Inclitissimi reges, 1439.
progenitores vestri recolendissimi, ad sacrosancte matris ecclesie profectum, ad Dei, nature, et legum misteria cognoscenda, ne radix aliqua sapiencialis suo deesset regno, vineam scienciarum quarumlibet electam, Universitatem videlicet Oxoniensem, ex summa prudencia plantavere: quatenus scicientes scienciarum vina, nulla earum pretermissa, secundum suam eleccionem habundanter haurire valerent ibidem. Et quoniam nequit anima, nisi vexacionibus exterius seclusis, ad perfecciones sciencie elevari; ea propter, ne dicta vinea extrinsecis concuteretur turbinibus, quibus botri scienciales marcescere (et)[1] languere possent, aut quomodolibet impediri, libertatum sepibus fortibus circumfulcierunt eandem, et privilegiorum tutis propugnaculis vallaverunt. Que omnia, tam libertates quam privilegia, dignata est vestra majestas magnifica litteris vestris patentibus confirmare. O felix fructuosaque ad Dei ecclesie munimen, immo tocius Anglie, vinee plantacio! O felicior ejusdem privilegiis et libertatibus vallacio! sed et felicissima eorumdem confirmacio graciosa! Sed heu et dolor! quod quorumdam temera presumpcio et incastigata malicia has libertates et hec privilegia, que regalis sanciit[2] preëminencia, intrepide moliuntur evertere et nequiter dissipare. Nihil equidem serere prodesset agrum, si exortas segetes fere pessime devorarent: immo et nihil castri proderunt alta menia vel[3] fossata profunda, si non sit qui inimicum elidat transgredi satagentem. Que omnia vestre serenitati metuendissime dolorosis conquestibus et gemebundis suspiriis reseramus: quum sola vestra celsitudo regalis ea protegere ac facere stare sufficit, que vestrorum progenitorum inclitudo permaxima erexit, ac vestra majestas invictissima confirmavit. Nuper equidem quidam N. Bury oratricem vestram humillimam, dictam Universitatem, in suo filio carissimo, magistro J. Gorsech, contra dicta libertates et privilegia,

[1] *et* omitted in MS. [2] *sanctiit* MS. [3] *ve* ib.

ob eorumdem execucionem vexavit et graviter molestavit, nec adhuc vexare desistit. Et quum dictus magister J. penes dictum N. secundum tenorem libertatum tempore sui vicecancellariatus exsequebatur justicie complementum, idem N. contra dictum magistrum J. acciones ficticias adinvenit; quas certis et loco et tempore fieri fallaciter figuravit; in Universitatis magnum dispendium, lesionem privilegiorum pregrandem atque expensarum effusionem non modicam, propter dicti magistri et libertatum dictarum tuicionem diuturnam: quam diucius sine vestro brachio sustinere nequimus. Qua in re, Christianissime princeps, vestram graciosissimam proteccionem humiliatis spiritibus et inclinatis cervicibus supplices imprecamur; quatinus curie vestre Londinensis mandetur judicibus privilegia, per vos et progenitores vestros vestre Universitati concessa, indilate et efficaciter allocare. Necnon et ut dictus N. in vestram metuendissimam presenciam advocetur, responsurus ibidem quare, in enervacionem privilegiorum vestre Universitatis, contra dictum magistrum J. acciones fallaces figuret et fingat: ut sic sua cohibeatur malicia et timor ceteros sibi consimiles apprehendat, ne contra aliquem injuste acciones confingant fallaces. Et vestram regaliam serenissimam ad regni vestri utriusque gubernionem felicem, sic dirigat Jesus Christus, ut hujus vite januis conclusis in vitam transferat eternalem. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo mensis Marcii die undevicesimo.* Vestre serenitatis potentissime humillima oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

146.

Fol. 56 b.

To John, Baron Gutenstein.

The renown of your great deeds is spread throughout the Christian world, compelling the gratitude of every minister of the Church. But we, who have received your letter, in a more especial manner rejoice at your conquest of the arch-heretick. In this world you may not, but in the next you surely will receive the due reward of your work, and we shall not fail to beg that his majesty the King will make a favourable response to your letter.

1440. Potenti et nobili viro, Johanni Baroni[1] de Gutenstein, domino in Babenstein.

Spectabili et virtuoso domino, catholice fidei inexpugnabili propugnaculo, pro victoria inimici crucis Christi suavitatem crucis degustare, et cum Dei militibus gloriosis triumphalis glorie laurea coronari. Graciosissimi vestri gestus celebre preconium, per universos

[1] *Burroni* MS.

Christi fidelium terminos longe lateque diffusum, omnium servorum in Dei ecclesia ministrancium devotissimos animos ad vestre magnifice laudis et favoris amplexum merito inclinavit. Nos tamen, ad quos vestra magnificencia direxit suas litteras, specialius gratulamur, dum, ex singulari gracia in vestre virtutis brachio, captus est ille vetus sacrosancte ecclesie hostis, quem heresiarcham tocius orbis publica vox et fama proclamant. O felix brachium! felixque gladius vester evangelicus, qui de evangelice veritatis sevissimo inimico meruit obtinere victoriam; eodemque viriliter devicto, turbulenta tempora pacis beneficio feliciter restaurare! Nec deerunt in futurum votive retribucionis munera magnanimitati vestre. Licet in presenti milicie vestre et laboris immensitati non arrideat forsan equa merces, tamen militum suorum non obliviscetur Deus, quos in fine et tempore accepto eternalis premii gloria saciabit. Nos quoque devocione promptissima, qua tenemur, penes illustrissimum dominum regem instabimus, quatinus, juxta juris et justicie complementum, litterarum vestrarum congruum recipere valeatis responsum. Militarem vestram eminenciam, ad felix ecclesie et fidei robur, per diuturna in prosperis conservet tempora virtus sanguinis Crucifixi. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Aprilis die quinto.* Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Testimonial letter for Master Thomas Brewer. Fol. 57 a.

Memorandum, quod undecimo die mensis Maii sigillata fuit littera testimonialis magistri Thome Brewer, in artibus magistri et sacre theologie baccalarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo. 1440.

147.

To the Pope.

We are desired by the Duke of Gloucester to write to your holiness in behalf of Master Edmund Kyrton: and we feel bound, though we had not been asked to do so, to say that his character is unimpeachable and his learning great. He has also ever been a staunch defender, both by disputation and preaching, of the church and of the holy see. With all humility, therefore, we venture to support the suit of the Duke in his favour.

Sanctissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Eugenio, divina providencia sacrosancte Romane et universalis ecclesie summo pontifici. 1440.

Pridie, beatissime pater, illustrissimus Gloucestrie dux Humfridus suum per nuncium nos rogavit, quatenus celsitudini vestre apostolice significare vellemus cujusdam confratris nostri, magistri Edmundi Kyrton, doctoris sacre theologie, vite integritatem ac litterarum erudicionem; ut per nos sanctitas vestra plenius informata suorum invidorum maledictis nullam prorsus credenciam largiretur. Nos vero, non ut rogati sed pocius obligati, vestram celsitudinem apostolicam cerciorem efficimus predictum confratrem nostrum, virum doctissimum in nostra Universitate, bone fame, vite honeste, opinionis illese fuisse. Et preter hec, dum cursum ejus scolasticum apud nos laudabiliter perficeret, pro honore ac exaltacione Romane sedis et pontificatus vestri jam arguendo, jam respondendo, jam predicando ita illustrem se habuit, ut gradum ipsum magistratus digne promereretur, totique cetui doctorum ipsius adventu magnum decus advenisse. Beatitudini [1], ut existimamus, vestre notus; nam, ut informamur, in consistorio generali quorum felicis recordacionis domino Martino per confirmacionem predecessoris sui laudabiliter proposuit. Ad pedes igitur vestre beatitudinis provoluti idem quod ipse dux illustrissimus rogat et nos rogamus affectuosis precibus. Supplicamus ut magistrum antedictum recommissum in sua gracia habere dignetur apostolica celsitudo. Verum cum singulas illius magistri prefati virtutes narrare longum esset, et, si vellemus, propter nuncii celeritatem nequeamus, tamen in iis que eciam de devocione et zelo nostro erga Romanam sedem et beatitudinem vestram nuncio litterarum regie majestatis et principis antedicti, cui credencia tradita est, fidem indubiam adhibere dignetur vestra apostolica celsitudo. Quam Omnipotens conservare dignetur ad bonum regimen ecclesie sue sancte. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo die Maii.* Sanctitatis vestre humillimi oratores Cancellarius Universitatis vestre Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium in eadem.

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1440. MEMORANDUM, quod septimo die Februarii sigillata fuit acquietancia viginti sex solidorum octo denariorum Abbati et conventui de Oseneya, nomine cujusdam annue pensionis ab eisdem debite pro termino omnium Sanctorum.

[1] These passages are transcribed precisely as they stand in the MS., nor is there any difficulty in deciphering this epistle. As has been observed before, the epistles which are written in the most clerkly hand have invariably more errors and omissions.

A Grace, conditional on payment of five pounds to the new schools' fund.

MEMORANDUM, quod gracia Myddleham conditionatur quod solvat quinque marcas ad fabricam novarum scolarum, et hoc infra annum a die concessionis gracie predicte. 1440.

A Fine paid by a Guardian of the Lincoln Chest.

MEMORANDUM, quod undevicesimo die Marcii sigillata fuit acquietancia sedecim solidorum trium denariorum magistro Roberto Ampleford pro cista Lincolniensi, ex condemnacione judicum ejusdem ciste. 1440.

148.

To the Duke of Gloucester. Fol. 57 b.

When we remember your many splendid donations to us, we cannot but extol your great munificence, and the natural inclination of your genius for literature, which have prompted you to send us seven more volumes of peculiar beauty by the hands of Master John Kyrkeby. Your success in the conduct of civil government, and your victories in war at home and abroad, are indeed signal titles to glory; but this your benefaction to us is in a peculiar sense befitting your character, and will out-live the transitory fame of all your other exploits. Statues, sculptures, and graven brass will not so long preserve the memory of the great as will the living records of history. How can we express our thanks? It is but little we do, but whereinsoever we can show our gratitude, we shall be ever ready to obey your commands.

SERENISSIMO ac illustrissimo principi Humfrido, duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, magno Camerario Anglie, et domino et protectori nostro graciosissimo. 1440.

Eternis laudum preconiis serenitatem vestram, illustrissime princeps, multo omnium maxime nos, humiles ac devoti ejusdem serenitatis cultores, extollere et magnificare non ab re tenemus, si excelsa et preclara ipsa sublimitatis vestre munera, sepe sepissimeque nobis supplicibus oratoribus vestris graciosissime prestita, ante mentis nostre aciem devocione debita revocemus. Tam abundans profecto atque exuberans in nos est bonitas magnificencie vestre, animus preterea ingenuus ita in artes ac sciencias in . . .[1] denique omnium facultatum proficuum incensus, ut, preter cetera beneficia preclaro ac vere regio, seu verius divino, illo centum viginti sex voluminum dono, que haud

[1] A word lost here by abrasion of MS.

dubium pro multitudine ac magnitudine spectaculum est videre, matrem nostram Universitatem nequaquam vos satis ornasse putatis, nisi septem eciam aliis admirandi apparatus voluminibus, per dilectum confratrem nostrum magistrum Johannem Kyrkeby, ad nos jam tarde a celsitudine vestra transmissis, numerum predictum magnifice augeretis. Sed hec, serenissime princeps, excellentissima res est, et que magnitudinem vestram quam maxime deceat. Licet enim summa regni negocia, sub felici ducatu ac fortunatis auspiciis vestris tam beate et prospere semper directa, parte insuper tocies de extraneis intraneis quoque hostibus victorie, cetereque istiusmodi innumerose preclarissime res per vos geste, que immense laudis titulo commendande semper existunt, nomen vestrum celebre plurimum ac gloriosum effecerint, hec tamen peculiariter inter alias res sublimitatem vestram adornat, vestrique nominis famam multo ceteris gloriosiorem ac mirabiliorem reddit. Ac ubi de aliis gestis et factis fragilem atque transitoriam, de hac sola re eternam memoriam comparatis. Superioris etatis principibus sculpturis marmoreis, seu eneis celaturis, vel mortuis quibusdam imaginibus sui memoriam relinquere vetusta consuetudo fuit, vos quidem non mortuis sed vivis librorum monimentis, cunctis immortale seculis, vestri nominis memoriale reliquistis. Hec profecto sunt, que nullis futuris temporibus laudes et preconia vestra, nec celeberrimum nomen ante oblitum ire patientur, quam omne virtutis studium pereat, vel qui litteras legere ac intelligere sciant nulli omnino reperiantur. Cum cetera quidem mortalia cursu continuo fluant, libri tamen ac littere, ut viva quedam ac perpetua rerum gestarum moni-
Fol. 58 a. menta, semper expectant. Sed pro tantis, tam amplis tamque magnificis donis et beneficiis, quale vobis sacrificium offerre debemus, excogitare certe nescimus. Multo quidem pluris beneficia ac dona ista sunt, quam quod ipsi valemus exsolvere. Verum hoc unum, quod possimus, fidelissime ac devotissime oratores vestri semper erimus; in eterna quoque apud [nos][1] ac celeberrima fama memoria nominis vestri permanebit. Quam vero in iis, que ad vestram complacenciam per nos fieri possint, mandatis, desideriis, rogatibusque vestris proni atque obnoxii semper fuerimus; in gracia fratris Johannis Kyry, sacre theologie bachilarii, pro qua jam nuper ad nos serenitas vestra scripsit, ostendimus: cum quo, sola contemplacione dominacionis vestre, sub certis condicionibus pro regencia sua anni futuri graciose dispensavimus; et graciam suam juxta votum ac sacrum desiderium vestrum modificavimus: sicut et promptissimum animum semper habemus ad quecunque faciendum, que celsitudo vestra a nobis peragi optaverit. Quam, ad regni gloriam, cleri et ecclesie

[1] *nos* omitted in MS.

fulcimentum, nostramque precipue consolacionem, prosperis in Domino successibus regat et protegat Rex regum et Dominus dominancium. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Februarii die ultimo.* Humillima et perpetua oratrix vestra Universitas studii Oxonie.

Two acquittances of Eynsham Abbey.

MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo secundo die Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo sigillata fuit acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynesham, de annua pensione quinquaginta duorum solidorum. 1440.

Eisdem die et anno sigillata fuit acquietancia predictis Abbati et conventui, de annua pensione sedecim solidorum pro centum pauperibus scolaribus pascendis in die S. Nicholai.

Testimonial letters for Masters Stephen Raff, Thomas Kyppyng, Thomas Sebrok, and John Andevere.

MEMORANDUM, quod decimo die mensis Maii sigillata fuit littera testimonialis, sub forma communi, Magistri Stephani Raff, sacre theologie professoris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo primo. 1441.

Memorandum, quod vicesimo tercio die mensis Maii sigillata fuit littera testimonialis, sub forma communi, magistri Thome Kyppyng, arcium magistri, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo primo.

Memorandum[1], quod quarto die mensis Julii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo primo sigillata fuit littera testimonialis, sub communi forma, pro magistro Thoma Sebrok, doctore sacre theologie, professore, &c. Fol. 58 b.

Memorandum, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo primo, mensis Julii die tercio, sigillata fuit littera testimonialis, sub communi forma, magistri Johannis Andevere, sacre pagine professoris.

149.

To the Presidents and Chapter of the Benedictine monks now assembled.

The University being solicitous that the merit of her sons should not be hidden under a bushel, but that by being publicly known it may encourage

[1] This *memorandum*, after having several corrections made, is crossed out in the MS.

others, commends to your favourable notice several distinguished members of your order.

1441. VENERABILIBUS patribus presidentibus nigrorum monachorum ordinis S. Benedicti in Anglia, et sacro ac generali capitulo eorumdem nunc in Dei spiritu presencialiter congregato.

Venerabiles patres, prospera successuum incrementa ad sacre matris ecclesie religionisque vestre continuum fulcimentum. Solet Universitas mater nostra, ab antiquis exemplata parentibus, virtuosam vitam pariter et studium suorum filiorum ad communem omnium deducere noticiam; quo magis ex hoc alii virtuosorum antecedencium gesta consimilia imitentur. Igitur, ne matris nostre taciturnitate velata [1], filiorum suorum magistrorum, Willelmi Ebchester, Johannis Andevere, Ricardi Barton, Johannis Mody et Johannis Burneby, sacre theologie doctorum, necnon magistri Willelmi Mortone, decretorum doctoris, sacri ordinis vestri monachorum, ardentes lucerne latescant sub modio—quorum teneras infancias suavis doctrine pavit dulcedine, deinde solidioris substancie cibo suis educavit in laribus; unde [2] sacre theologie et apostolicorum Canonum cathedras meruerunt ascendere doctorales, inter alios literatissimos ejusdem ordinis viros:—rogitat vestre religionis patres ceterosque, quatenus ipsos suscipere his matris nostre precibus dignemini specialiter commendatos, fidemque eis ex parte nostra credulam adhibere. Et venerabilem cetum vestrum prosperari faciat Deus, qui illius sancte congregacionis vestre principium est et finis. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Julii die quinto.* Universitas Oxoniensis.

150.

To the Pope.

Commends to his holiness Master Richard Pytton, Dean of Darlington, sometime Master of University College, the oldest of our foundations, who has business to transact at Rome.

1441. SANCTISSIMO in Christo patri et domino nostro, Domino Eugenio, divina providencia sacrosancte Romane ac universalis ecclesie summo pontifici.

Beatissime pater, devota pedum oscula beatorum. Magna sanctitas vestre paternitatis et immensa opera, que in tocius orbis prodierunt noticiam, ille quoque radius benignissimi favoris [3] vestri, suam illustrans ancillam mero [4] apostolico, nos vestros obsequiosissimos filios animant eandem ad sanctitatem [5] devocius exorandam pro vestro devoto filio et

[1] *velate?* [2] *dende* MS. [3] *vavoris* ib. [4] *more?* [5] *sanitatem* MS.

confratre nostro, magistro Ricardo Pytton, decano ecclesie de Derlyngton Dunelmensis diocesis, in sacra theologia baccalario, et nuper magistro collegii antiquioris Universitatis predicte; viro[1] morum et scienciarum fragrancia vernante, provido et circumspecto; qui coram sanctitate vestra certa, ut dicit, habet prosequi negocia. Quapropter eandem sanctitatem vestram humillime ac devotissime rogitamus, quatinus, nostrarum precum supplici interventu, prefatum magistrum cum suis negociis specialius commendatum dignetur suscipere vestra apostolica celsitudo. Quam, ad Dei laudem et sancte matris ecclesie fulcimentum, preservare dignetur semper in prosperis, Cujus vicem geritis in terris, Jesus Christus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Julii die ultimo.* Humillima apostolice sanctitatis ancilla, Universitas Oxoniensis.

151.

To the King. Fol. 59 a.

Your zeal for every good work, and especially for the worship of God and the welfare of the church and clergy, ensures our readiness to comply with your wishes; and whereas you do not consider the terms we offered for the rent of Bedel hall sufficient, we request permission either to purchase the same, or to acquire it by exchange.

Serenissime et illustrissime princeps, divinus ille et celestis ardor, 1441.
quo in preclarissima omnium virtutum opera, in ea vero maxime que ad Dei cultum, ecclesie et cleri gloriam cedunt, regius semper inflammatur animus, nos humillimos oratores vestros summopere[2] invitant, ut votis regiis obedientes exsequamur quecunque per nos fieri regia[3] duxerit celsitudo. Unde et cum, ob virtutis incrementum, augmentum studii atque cleri, ad preces et supplicaciones dilecti capellani vestri magistri Johannis Carpenter, viri nostra opinione vita, moribus, doctrina, necnon cunctis animi virtutibus inter ceteros alme Universitatis matris nostre alumnos prestantissimi, pro aula quadam nostra vocata 'Bedelhall' in eadem Universitate predicta capellano vestro ac successoribus suis pro certa pensione annua in perpetuum concedenda, sacra majestas vestra pluries scripserit; nos vero, ut decet, sanctum vestrum desiderium et felix dicti capellani vestri propositum interna mentis acie considerantes, quum preterea estimatione nostra ex hac re Universitati matri nostre lucrum futurum sit, negare omnino non audemus quod injungitis. At licet in eadem pensione decem solidorum, quam jam nuper obtulimus, queque admodum racionabilis nobis

[1] *vero* MS. [2] *sumopere* ib. [3] *regea* ib.

fuisse videbatur, magnitudini vestre et litteris prioribus nos satisfecisse sperassemus, cum jam tamen per secundos apices eandem magnitudinem de dicta pensione minime contentam esse intelligamus, tanquam jussionibus et votis regiis omnium semper obsequiosissimi atque promptissimi filii, preter id quod a nobis prius est oblatum, contemplacione celsitudinis vestre prefato magistro nunc de duobus aliis opcionem atque eleccionem concedimus; ad aulam videlicet integram emendam, vel cum victu alio commutandam, juxta tenorem sedule presentibus intercluse. Qua in re et serenitati vestre placabile sacrificium obtulisse, ac dicti magistri Johannis intencionem nos implesse confidimus. Illud autem humillime et devotissime a celsitudine vestra deposcimus, quatinus, si aulam predictam vel integre vendere, vel pro victu alio nos juxta votum vestrum commutare oporteat, ut eandem celsitudinem, in novo victu amortizando et incorporando, nobis graciosam et benevolam inveniamus. Oratores quoque vestri sumus et continue erimus. Et sacratissima majestas vestra diu prosperetur et floreat. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Augusti die primo.* Humillima et perpetua oratrix vestra Universitas Oxoniensis.

152.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

Fol. 59 b. *If refinement of life and manners, if justice, magnificence, and liberality can confer immortal fame, surely it will be yours. In vain we search the records of the past, we find none to surpass you in divine knowledge and literary culture. And your fame is not confined to your own land, already it has crossed the sea and the Alps. A flood of literature translated from the Greek to the Latin tongue and dedicated to your name is flowing onwards; and not only so, but daily study and nightly watching are devoted to the production of works in our own language. It is indeed a grateful sight to see the number of volumes that now come to us from every part of the world. Under your patronage Greek literature, which had lain buried for so many centuries, has now come to life again. Now we can study in the original language the works of Plato, Aristotle, and the other Greek philosophers. And if the Latin races owe you thanks, how much more gratitude should we English feel, removed as we are from the rest of the world by intervening sea and land? Now, through your books, we can see the secret things that Africa and Asia have hitherto kept concealed. There was an University here it is true, but study there was none, for we had no books! If then the Trojans boast of their Hector, the Thessalians their Achilles, the Macedonians*

their Alexander, the Romans their Caesar, we Oxonians are bound to extol our Humfrey with immortal gratitude and praise. The bearer of this will convey to you the indenture of your splendid benefaction.

SERENISSIMO atque illustrissimo principi, Humfredo duci Glowcestre, comiti Pembrochie et magno camerario Anglie, domino nostro graciosissimo. 1441.

Si de clarissimis et spectatissimis in toto orbe principibus quisquam nominis immortalitatem unquam meruerit, celsitudinem vestram, illustrissime princeps, inter ceteros peculiari quodam modo perpetuam ac immortalem nominis gloriam credimus meruisse; si profecto de iis rebus, e quibus sempiterna fama atque memoria hominibus comparantur, loquendum fuerit. Quis vita comptior, moribus formosior, gestis illustrior; justicia, magnificencia, liberalitate, omni denique virtute preclarior extitit, de hiis quos prisca etas maximo studio coluit non facile reperiemus. Tot quidem splendidissime virtutes[1], et ipsa quam maxime celestis ac divina sciencia, necnon litteratura dignitatem vestram adornant, ut non modo apud nostros eternum et indelebile[2] nomen feceritis, verum jam mare Alpesque transgresse. Non vobis, serenissime princeps, sed et toti Anglice nacioni famam et gloriam inextinguibilem acquisistis. Nullus enim inter principes Christianos, apud Ytalos Grecosve scriptores celebrior, nullus clarior, nullus omnium ore personancior habetur. Quanta industria tot indies libri vestro sacratissimo nomini consecrati de Grecorum fontibus in Latinam linguam scaturiunt! Quantis insuper lugubracionibus et vigiliis, non modo ut ceteri ex Grecis traducant, sed et contemplacioni magnitudinis vestre nova in nostram linguam excudant opera, non nostrates solum sed ipsi etiam eloquentissimi et doctissimi de Italia viri insudaverunt! Quot preterea non de Grecia, Latia, Ytaliave, sed de omnibus tocius orbis partibus volumina ad vos[3] cotidie confluxerint satis superque[4] satis pulcrum et delectabile est intueri. Patrocinio vestro Grece[5], que multis jam seculis littere sepulte fuerant, revixere. Nunc Grecos philosophos, bene vivendi magistros, Platonem, Aristotelem, ceteros quoque non superficie tenus, et intute uti per priores translaciones, sed intus et in profundo [Latinis][6] cernendi copia datur. Quod si Latini omnes gracias abundantissimas sublimitati vestre justissime pro tanto munere debeant, maxime nos Anglici, qui in angulo mundi constituti sumus: quos quanquam pelagus spaciosissimaque terrarum loca a prospectu rerum mundialium impediant, per hos tamen libros et volumina vestra liber et propatulus omnium rerum datur intuitus.

[1] *virtutis* MS. [2] *indelibili* ib. [3] *nos*? [4] *super satisque* satis MS.
[5] *Grece que quae* ib. [6] *Latinis*, apparently should be omitted, ib.

Nihil Africa, nihil Asia secretum continet, quod non in hiis voluminibus aperte legamus. Studium litterarum, quod primum apud Grecos, deinde apud Romanos, postremo apud Gallos fuisse testantur historie, jam ope vestra in hanc almam patriam translatum est. Universitas istic antea fortasse exstitit, studium vero non. Sine quibus profecto studium subsistere nequit, libri defuerunt; quos nunc omni thesauro preciosiores habemus. Si itaque Troyes suum Hectorem, Thessali Achillem, Macedones Alexandrum, Romani Cesarem in celum eternis laudibus efferant, nos Oxonienses nostrum Humfridum immortalibus laudibus efferre debemus; gracias insuper maximas pro infinitis vestris beneficiis humillime exsolvere; quas sane toto corde agimus, ac inter cetera precipue pro illo excelso et magnifico dono[1] librorum, quos per dilectos clericos vestros, viros multa virtute et sciencia preclaros, confratres nostros magistros Willelmum Say, alme hujus Universitatis procuratorem, et Johannem Kyrkby ad nos nuper liberalissime destinastis; uti et per indenturam, serenitati vestre per latorem presencium deportatam, oculis celsitudinis vestre poterit apparere[2]: quam ad omnium nostrum gloriam diu feliciter prosperari faciat Qui omnia potest. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Novembris die decimo.* Perpetua et humillima oratrix vestra Universitas Oxoniensis.

Fol. 60 a.

Indenture of acknowledgement of receipt of nine more books.

1441. Hec indentura, facta inter venerabilem virum, magistrum Willelmum Grey, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, magistrum Johannem Kyllyngworth, ejusdem Universitatis alterum procuratorem, cetumque venerabilem magistrorum regencium in eadem ex parte una, et magistris Willelmum Say et Johannem Kyrkeby ex parte altera, testatur quod nos, predicti Cancellarius, procurator, cetusque magistrorum regencium Universitatis antedicte, recepimus de prefatis magistris Willelmo et Johanne libros infrascriptos, ex dono illustrissimi principis Humfridi ducis Gloucestrie; In primis, videlicet, Rabanum '*Ad Lodowicum regem*,' secundo folio, '*Domino reverendissimo*.' Item, Augustinum '*De civitate Dei*,' secundo folio, '*in tabula de qualitate*.' Item, librum Augustini diversorum operum, videlicet, '*Musice*,' '*Contra Manicheos*,' et aliorum, secundo folio '*et cornos*.' Item, Augustini, qui Grece dicitur '*Exameron*,' secundo folio '*spirituali*.' Item, Augustini '*Super Genesim*,' cum aliis, secundo folio '*quia ubi*.' Item, Liber '*Yponnosticon*' Augustini, secundo folio '*prophete*.' Item, Augustini '*De vita Christiana*,' secundo folio, '*se invenisse*.' Item, Titum Livium, secundo folio, '*-lo spes*.' Item, '*Concordancia super libros Senece*,'

[1] *domo* MS. [2] *aproire* ib.

secundo folio, '*adversa.*' Item, Novum opus '*Super Arithmeticam,*' secundo folio, '*combinacionis.*' In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum, &c.

Testimonial letter for Master Alexander Robynet.

MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo tercio die mensis Novembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo primo, sigillata erat una littera testimonialis, sub sigillo et forma communi, pro magistro Alexandro Robynet, arcium magistro. 1441.

Acquittances of Eynsham and Oseney Abbeys.

MEMORANDUM, quod tercio die mensis Februarii, sigillata fuit acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Enesham, de annua pensione quinquaginta duorum solidorum, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo primo. 1441.

Eisdem anno et die, sigillata fuit acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Osney de annua pensione viginti sex solidorum octo denariorum.

Memorandum, quod quinto die mensis Februarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo primo, sigillata fuit acquietancia Abbati et Conventui de Enysham, de annua pensione sedecim solidorum, pro centum pauperibus scolaribus pascendis in die S. Nicholai, &c.

Memorandum, quod undevicesimo die Februarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo primo, sigillata erat quedam littera testimonialis, de quadraginta solidis, liberatis custodibus ciste domine Ele quondam Comitisse de Warwyk, per manus magistri Johannis Kyllyngworth, ad tunc procuratoris borealis[1].

Ordinance for the Exeter Chest. Fol. 60 b.

Whereas John, duke of Exeter, considering how charitable a work it is to relieve the wants of poor scholars, and so enable them to devote their minds to knowledge and virtue, has, of his special regard for this University, bequeathed to us the sum of one hundred marks; we have deposited the said sum in a new chest provided for that purpose and to be called 'the Exeter Chest' for ever: and the said money shall be lent to Masters and scholars under the conditions hereinafter stated.

MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo primo, vicesimo tercio die Februarii, sigillata erat quedam littera indentata sub tenore subscripto. 1441.

Universis fidelibus, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Willelmus

[1] *borialis* MS.

Grey, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium in eadem, salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera caritatis opera pium esse dinoscitur studencium necessitati consulere, necnon compassionis et misericordie oculos ad eorum relevandum indigencias convertere, ipsis de oportuno subsidio providendo; ut, summotis ab eis inopie a studio distrahentis molestiis, tanto uberius exercitacione scolastica fructus afferatur sciencie et virtutum, quanto abundancius, largiflua elemosinarum donacione, tempore oportuno de sua inedia[1] fuerint relevati. Hac igitur consideracione motus et divinitus inspiratus, illustrissimus princeps Johannes dux Exoniensis, propter specialem benevolenciam et affeccionem, quas ad magistros et scolares Universitatis nostre antedicte gessit, nobis ac Universitati predicte legavit ac donavit centum libras; quas in pecunia numerata a venerabilibus viris magistro Thoma Walbore, cancellario capelle S. Stephani infra palacium regium in Westmonasterio, et Johanne Bertram, armigero, prefati ducis executoribus, nos recepisse et habuisse recognoscimus; in quadam nova cista communi Universitatis ad hoc deputanda reponendas et conservandas. Quam cistam ex dicti serenissimi principis nomine cistam Exoniensem sive 'de Exeter' volumus perpetuo nominari: ac dictas centum libras in utilitatem magistrorum et scolarium in Universitate nostra studencium, per viam mutui, converti, secundum modum et formam per nos ordinatos et subscriptos.

Desiring therefore to express our gratitude by making a spiritual recompence to the donor for this his temporal benefit, we admit him among the number of our benefactors; and grant him a participation in all prayers and intercessions offered for them for ever. And when the Chaplain of the University goes round to all the schools to invite prayers for the benefactors, the name of the donor shall be specially mentioned. Also, on the festival of the Conversion of S. Paul every year, mass, for the repose of their souls, shall be said for the founder of this chest and Margaret his wife, and for their relations and executors, with special collects. And every regent Master shall attend until after the third 'Agnus Dei,' and whosoever borrows from the said chest shall say five times the Pater noster and five times the Ave Maria for the said souls.

Nos igitur, Cancellarius antedictus cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium Universitatis antedicte, prefati illustrissimi principis erga nos et Universitatem nostram munificenciam ac largitatem graciarum accionibus amplectentes, sibique spiritualem

[1] *inedie* MS.

retribucionem munerum rependere cupientes, eundem inter benefactores Universitatis nostre admittimus; concedentes eidem quod particeps sit omnium bonorum, precum et suffragiorum, que pro benefactoribus dicte Universitatis fient in perpetuum; et quod nomen ejusdem nominibus benefactorum nostrorum inter cetera perpetuo ascribatur. Quodque, singulis annis, Capellano nostre Universitatis circumeunte scolas magistrorum, ad orandum pro ejusdem Universitatis benefactoribus, nomen prestantissimi dicti ac nobilissimi principis inter ceteros benefactores specialiter recitetur. Singulis insuper annis, in festo conversionis S. Pauli, pro anima prefati illustrissimi domini et animabus Margarete consortis sue, parencium, progenitorum, ac benefactorum suorum, necnon Thome et Johannis, executorum ejusdem, et omnium fidelium defunctorum missa de 'requiem,' cum exsequiis mortuorum precedentibus, simul concurrenter cum missa et exsequiis serenissimi et illustrissimi Edwardi tercii, quondam regis Anglie, cum speciali collecta pro eisdem, post primam collectam, a nobis et successoribus nostris fiet in perpetuum celebris et solempnis, cum diacono et subdiacono; singulis magistris regentibus ad hoc more solito convocandis: quorum quilibet hujusmodi misse ad minus a principio Evangelii usque post tercium '*Agnus Dei*,' nisi prius petita a Cancellario licencia atque optenta, in fide prestita Universitati interesse teneatur. Item, quod quilibet mutuum de dicta cista recipiens bona fide promittat, quod pro anima dicti principis, nec non animabus Margarete uxoris sue, parencium, progenitorum ac benefactorum suorum, dictorumque executorum et omnium fidelium defunctorum, quinquies oracionem Dominicam tociensque salutacionem Angelicam devote dicet.

The regulations for the guardians of this chest shall be the same as those for the Langton Chest; except that one of the guardians shall always be a member of Queen's College, and all the statutes and customs now in force, or hereafter to be made for the management of the chests, shall also be observed in the case of the Exeter Chest.

Quoad custodiam dicte ciste et summe pecunie reponende in eadem volumus et concedimus, quod sit ejusdem condicionis, quoad singula, cum cista venerabilis patris domini Johannis de Langton, episcopi quondam Cicestrensis; hoc duntaxat excepto, quod tercius custos ciste predicte, scilicet non-regens, erit semper de collegio Regine; dummodo **Fol. 61 a.** per Universitatem in forma consueta nominatus, electus et ad hujusmodi officium fideliter exsequendum juratus fuerit; si sic electus acceptare voluerit. Item, quod omnia statuta et consuetudines laudabiles conservacionem cistarum concernencia, nunc per Universitatem nostram

facta vel in posterum facienda, dum presenti ordinacioni nullatenus repugnent, circa predicte ciste custodiam observentur. Ad premissa autem omnia et singula fideliter et sine fraude perpetuo facienda et inviolabiliter observanda, nos, Cancellarius et magistri predicti obligamus nos et successores nostros; et ea omnia facere et observare in perpetuum promittimus bona fide. In cujus rei testimonium huic parti indenture, penes dictos executores remanenti, sigillum commune nostre Universitatis est appensum. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo tercio die mensis Februarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo primo, et anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum Anglie vicesimo.*

Testimonial letter issued for Master Roger Grey.

Memorandum, quod septimo decimo die mensis Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo primo, sigillata fuit littera testimonialis pro magistro Rogero Gray.

153.

To the King.

We call to remembrance with wonder the great benevolence you have shown towards us in the past, and there can be no greater proof of your abiding favour than that, in the midst of your cares and anxieties for the kingdom, you yet do not forget us. In truth the peace and safety of this seat of learning is, as you consider, above all things to be desired, and is an ornament and source of happiness to your kingdom. The discord and disturbances among us, have been wisely and mercifully handled by your prudent management, and we desire to express our eternal gratitude.

1441. Serenissimo principi, domino nostro metuendissimo, Henrico, Dei gracia Anglie et Francie regi illustrissimo.

Serenissimo et Christianissimo principi, Anglie et Francie illustrissimo regi, subjecciones honores et gracias cum omni devocione et humilitate. Collecto superioris vite nostre studio nos rem magnificam et excelsam aggredi visum est, omnemque dicendi copiam anteire, dum vestra in nos beneficia, pietates et mansuetudines, invictissime ac metuendissime princeps, ante mentis nostre oculos studuimus anteponi; quantisque, retroactis semper temporibus, hanc vestram Universitatem amplissimis graciis divinisque liberalitatibus vestra sacra majestas ornavit. Quamque humana, quam pia, quam mansueta Universitatis vestre cura semper vos tenuit, et nunc tenet, humanissima nuper vestre serenitatis scripta docebant; in quibus singularis in eam

cujusdam pietatis, singulare et ammirabilis benevolencie vestre lumen illuxit. Equidem non videmus quid nobis humanius, quid beneficencius, quid denique vestra clemencia atque gloria dignius facere potuistis, quam, in maxima publicarum occupacionum sollicitudine, ad felicitatem incolumitatemque Universitatis vestre pias benevolencie acies atque providentissime consideracionis oculos retorquere. Magna profecto pietas et regalis gracie culmine digna, quam nec plurimarum rerum cure, nec turbulentus status amplissimarum regionum atque terrarum, que dicioni et imperio vestro sunt subjecte, a cognicione quoque hujus vestri celeberrimi litterarum monimenti, aut vestrorum tutela revocavit: quasi incolumitatem tranquillitatemque[1] suam vobis omnibus aliis rebus anteponendam, et ad ornamentum regni beatitudinemque imperii vestri magnopere redundaturam censeretis. Itaque, princeps serenissime, vestre celsitudini gracias eternas et immortales agentes, hanc sacram benevolenciam atque divinum in nos studium vestrum perpetua memoria sempiternaque observancia et devocione venerari, colere et celebrare decrevimus. Nam quod matrem nostram vestram devotissimam oratricem, que a divinis retro principibus progenitoribus vestris preclare fundata, a vestra vero clemencia non solum conservata verum eciam amplissimis rebus **Fol. 61 b.** amplificata fuerit, jam nuper domesticis perturbacionibus, et intestinis sedicionibus laceratam, tam humaniter tamque clementer in ejus turbulento statu tractaveritis, et humanitatem vestram congratulando colimus, et admirando veneramur sapienciam. Vidit profecto vestra summa sapiencia atque virtus in sapientibus, et in iis qui bonis artibus et sapiencie studiis diligenter incumbant, non autem in illis perditis et sediciosis hominibus, qui sua temeritate ac furore bonos et studiosos viros sollicitant, vestram Universitatem consistere; indignumque esse ut, propter paucorum improbitatem, matris nostre languentis integritas et innocencia aliqua jactura aut pena afficiatur. Itaque vestra providencia regia illis improbis et sediciosis maximum incussit terrorem, atque vestra clemencia Universitatem concussam et indigne vexatam, et quasi in sinum vestrum, ut ita loquamur, confugientem summa benevolencia et divina pietate complectitur. Unde effectum est ut mali, consciencia malefactorum et juste pene formidine, contabescant; et vestra Universitas de magna perturbacione exui gaudens, spe nunc orientis et exsequende continuandeque quietis, vestre serenitatis tutela letetur. Quare, princeps clementissime, et sapiencie et humanitati vestre congratulamur, summas integre et inexhaustas gracias agentes; obsecramusque accuratissime et humillime obtestamur, quod hujusmodi benevolencie humanitatisque vestre perseveranciam nobis vestra

[1] *incolumitatemque tranquillitatem* MS.

celsitudo concedat. Floreatque in multas etates gloria, virtus et magnificencia vestra, semper cum victoria et triumpho. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Marcii die septimo decimo.* Vestre celsitudinis humillima et devotissima oratrix Universitas vestri studii Oxoniensis.

154.

To the King.

The faculty of Arts, as it was the first in time so it has ever enjoyed the highest privileges at Oxford. But never has it conferred more honour on the University and on your realm than at this time. Lectures on every art and philosophy are now delivered without fee to all, and we are sorry to find that the Grammar masters endeavour to prejudice your mind against the faculty of Arts, objecting to the payment always hitherto made by them to the Masters teaching in Arts. We have, in submission to your command, foreborne to enforce the payment, but we assure you that it has been invariably paid in the past, and that the Grammar masters are bound by their oath to pay it. Master William Say will wait upon you and give full information.

1442. LITTERA sigillata et missa domino nostro regi, secundo die May 1442[1].

Serenissime atque illustrissime princeps in quanta veneracione ac dileccione percelebris arcium facultas ab[2] inclitissime memorie progenitoribus vestris semper habita sit, hoc nedum ex eo palam fit, quod ipsa inter precipuas ac celeberrimas facultates in hac preclarissima Universitate vestra primum docta, instituta, et fundata fuerit; verum maximis dotata privilegiis et libertatibus adornata. Quamobrem, uti in aliis mundi Universitatibus et studiis singulariter alie pollent facultates et sciencie, ita et in firmamento hujus alme Universitatis vestre[3] artes peculiari quodam modo semper choruscasse et splenduisse noscuntur. Quod si unquam laudis et honoris splendorem, vel fame titulum huic splendidissime Universitati aut famosissimo regno vestro, per aliquot retroacta tempora progenitorum vestrorum, artes attulerint, nunquam tamen magis quam his felicissimis diebus vestris; quum primum non pro vili precio et particulatim seu in privato, ut olim consueverunt, sed gratis, integre et in publico omnes artes, omnes philosophie leguntur. Istud bonum, Christianissime princeps, sub

[1] This unusual form of superscription has the date, as here given, in ordinary figures, MS. [2] *ad* ib. [3] At this place, in the margin of the MS., are written in contemporary hand the words '*contra magistros grammatice.*'

fortunatissimo vestro imperio jam sola possidet Oxonia, quo reliqua in toto orbe studia et Universitates carere dicuntur, quod et in serenitatis vestre gloriam ac regni vestri decorem haud dubium est quam[1] maxime redundare. Hec, princeps excellentissime, sunt que favorem et graciam regiam in tam nobilem et insignem facultatem, necnon in libertatum, immunitatum, et consuetudinum ejusdem tutelam, trahere et inclinare debent. Sed, quod dolenter satis referimus, ut ex sacrissimis litteris vestris jam nuper accepimus, quidam facultatis grammatice nimis ingrati, et alme Universitatis vestre indemnitati non satis amici, conati sunt ut celsitudo regia longe in partem adversam et contra tam preclaram facultatem persuasa sit; occasione pensionis cujusdam irracionabiliter nimis, ut inquiunt, ab ipsis informatoribus grammatice per arcium magistros exacte atque levate. Qua in re signavit nobis serenitas vestra exaccionem hujusmodi pensionis differri, quoadusque plenius necnon expressius majestas vestra docta et informata esset: quod revera in hunc diem juxta metuendissimum vestrum mandatum devote atque humiliter fecimus, quamvis procul a racione pensionem istam exigi ac peti eos asserere vel sic majestatem vestram informasse minime decuisset; rei veraci fundamento longe aliter se **Fol. 62 a.** habente, presertim quum juxta[2] vetustissimas et antiquissimas consuetudines Universitatis, ad quarum observacionem eciam ipsi grammatice magistri sint astricti in vinculo juramenti, pro certis indemnitatibus facultatis arcium hujusmodi pensio peti, solvi et levari ab olim et hactenus consuevit; sicuti precarissimus confrater noster, servus celsitudinis vestre, magister W. Say, habet eandem celsitudinem nostra ex parte de hac re cercius informare[3]. Cui, obsecramus humillime, favorem et benignam audienciam in premissis, necnon regium munimen in defensionem libertatum et consuetudinum facultatis antedicte prestare dignetur regia majestas. Que in eternum floreat et gaudeat. *Scriptum, &c.*

Letters testimonial for Masters William Mores, Thomas ffernys, William Askeby, John Stakpoll and Robert Motford[4].

MEMORANDUM, quod undecimo die mensis May, anno Domini[5] **1442.** millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo secundo, sigillata est littera testimonialis pro fratre Willelmo Mores, ordinis predicatorum sacre theologie professore, sub forma communi.

Memorandum, quod octavo die mensis Junii, anno Domini mil-

[1] *quid maxime* MS. [2] *vixta* ib. [3] *informari* ib. [4] Or perhaps *Mitford* ib. [5] *anno Domini* omitted ib.

lesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo secundo, sigillata est littera testimonialis pro magistro Thoma ffernys, doctore juris canonici, sub forma communi.

Memorandum, quod septimo decimo die mensis Junii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo secundo, sigillata est littera testimonialis pro magistro Willelmo Askeby, arcium magistro, sub forma communi.

Memorandum, quod nono decimo die mensis Junii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo secundo, sigillata erat littera testimonialis pro magistro Johanne Stakpoll, decretorum doctore, sub forma communi.

Memorandum, quod vicesimo sexto die Junii, magister Robertus Motford, arcium magister, habuit literam testimonialem sigillo communi Universitatis sigillatam.

155.

Citation of John Brasyll.

Whereas John Brasyll was licensed on the usual terms, and has nevertheless not paid the statutable fee for the same within the time prescribed, thereby incurring the guilt of perjury; now therefore we, the Chancellor and Masters, require you Matthew de Mongrede, Robert Powere, John Londres, and Maurice Conowr, our sworn messengers, jointly and severally, to cite or cause to be cited the said John Brasyll to appear before us in our house of Congregation, within two days thereafter; and show cause, if any there be, why we should not proceed to pass sentence of excommunication and deprivation of degrees in due form, and further that you advise us as to what you shall have done in the premisses.

1442. Forma citacionis pro Johanne Brasyll, vicesimo die mensis Junii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo secundo.

Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem Matheo de Mongrede, Roberto Powere, decano Lymeresyn, Johanni Londres, et Mauricio Conowre, nunciis nostris juratis et ad presens nostrum mandatum exsequendum specialiter deputatis, salutem. Cum auctoritate Universitatis antedicte sit statutum diuturnaque et laudabili consuetudine observatum, quod si quis licenciatus fuerit in grammatica, artibus, aut medicina; et secundum consuetudines ejusdem Universitatis infra annum proxime sequentem suam licenciacionem non inceperit, si non promotus triginta solidos, si vero promotus sexaginta solidos communi ciste Universitatis predicte, infra octo dies post completum annum a tempore sue licen-

ciacionis sive graduacione, solvere teneatur; atque quidam Johannes Brasyll, in grammatica licenciatus, etsi tempore licenciacionis sue ad observacionem statuti hujusmodi, juxta formam statutorum et consuetudinum Universitatis predicte juramento specialiter et corporaliter prestito, fuerit astrictus; eidem tamen statuto consuetudini aut juramento suo, infra tempus in eodem statuto, ut premittitur, comprehensum, minime obtemperare curavit; unde constat eum in crimen lesionis fidei et perjurii evidenter incurrisse, in anime sue grave periculum dicteque Universitatis dampnum non modicum et gravamen: vobis igitur, communiter et divisim, committimus et firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus citetis, seu citari faciatis, peremptorie predictum Johannem Brasyll; quem et nos peremptorie citamus per presentes; ut paratus compareat coram nobis in domo nostre congregacionis[1] Universitatis antedicte, infra duos dies post citacionem sibi factam, in hac parte; causam racionabilem, si quam habeat, allegaturus quare contra ipsum, occasione premissa, per nos ad sentencias excommunicacionis et degradacionis, juxta vim, formam, et effectum statutorum Universitatis sepedicte procedi non debeat; ulteriusque facturus et[2] recepturus quod justicia suadebit in hac parte; quem quidem terminum, propter viarum distanciam et imminens anime sue periculum, ita duximus moderandum. Et quid feceritis in premissis nos, dictis die et loco, debite certificetis per vestras, seu sic certificet ille vestrum qui presens mandatum nostrum fuerit assecutus per suas, litteras patentes, harum seriem continentes, sigillo autentico sigillatas. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, sub Universitatis predicte communi sigillo, mensis Junii die vicesimo octavo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo secundo.*

156.

To the Pope.

Fol. 62 b.

Though your care extends to every member of the Church, yet those who are known to be in a special degree zealous for her welfare are more graciously admitted to a favourable audience: we therefore humbly entreat your holiness to incline your ear to the request of Master Richard Beauchamp, a member of this University and illustrious by birth, virtue, and learning.

Sanctissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino nostro Eugenio, divina providencia sacre Romane ecclesie summo pontifici. 1442.

Sanctissime in Christo pater, filiali et solita recommendacione pre-

[1] *congregacionum* MS. [2] *et* omitted in MS.

missa, cum devotissimis pariter et humillimis terre osculis ante pedes: Licet ubilibet in orbe terrarum militantis ecclesie summi et tam excelsi patris cura singulis aperiat sinum graciosum; illos tamen specialius ad faventis exaudicionis graciam solet admittere, qui sacratissime sue sponse ecclesie peculiariores dinoscuntur et fervidi zelatores. Hinc humillima apostolice sanctitatis vestre filia, Universitas Oxoniensis mater nostra, prosternit se in humilitatis spiritu pro suo carissimo filio, confratre nostro, ex maternis uberibus quam solidis nobilissime educato, magistro Ricardo Beauchampe, sacrorum canonum doctore disertissimo, in dicta nostra Universitate creato; quem tam ingenue nobilitatis sanguis quam concors virtutum caterva predicant redimitum, universalis ecclesie fidei sanctitatisque vestre fervidum zelatorem: supplicans humiliter et devote quatinus sincere sue matris ancille vestre precibus, pro tam bene merito filio deprecantis, sanctissima paternitas vestra aures dignetur adhibere graciosas; ipsumque una cum emergentibus pro eo negociis suscipere commendatum, ut prefate sue matris instancias cum effectu sibi senciat profuisse. Vestram sanctitatem, ad universalis ecclesie solacium et munimen, semper in prosperis conservet diutine cujus vicem geritis, Filius Virginis gloriose. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, octodecimo die mensis Augusti.* Humillima apostolice sanctitatis ancilla Universitas Oxoniensis.

Testimonial letter for Master John Kyngston.

1442. MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo tercio die mensis Octobris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo secundo, sigillata erat littera testimonialis pro magistro Johanne Kyngston, doctore in theologia, sub forma communi, cum hac clausula, viz. *quod laudabiliter suam regenciam complevit,* &c.

Pension for retiring bedel.

Whereas Richard Glentworth has for many years discharged the duties of inferior bedel of the faculty of Arts, and in the execution of that office has suffered much trouble and pecuniary loss by the persecution of enemies of the University, and is now in his old age and infirmity no longer able to perform his duties, a pension is hereby granted to him of forty shillings a year and a gown of the value of ten shillings.

1442. MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo secundo die Octobris sigillata est littera sub sigillo communi pro Ricardo, ad tunc bedello inferiori in facultate arcium.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus presentes litteras visuris vel audituris Henricus Sever, sacre theologie professor, alme Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarius, Rogerus Grey et Thomas Walkyngton, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Quia Ricardus Glentworth[1], facultatis arcium inferior bidellus, qui diligenter eidem Universitati per tempora servivit diuturna in officio predicto; necnon, racione execucionis ejusdem officii predicti, per quorumdam dicte Universitatis emulorum vexaciones injustas pariter et iniquas bona perdidit quam plurima, ac jam senio confractus et in varias infirmitatum molestias collapsus officium predictum minime sufficit exercere: Hinc nos, Cancellarius, procuratores, et magistri regentes concessimus graciose eidem Ricardo, pro nobis et successoribus nostris, durante vita sua, quadraginta solidos sterlingorum; solvendorum eidem Ricardo annuatim ad quatuor anni terminos, per equales porciones; et unam togam, erga festum natale Domini annuatim, valoris decem solidorum. Ad quas quidem summam et togam sic fideliter solvendas et liberandas, ut predicitur, volumus et concedimus, pro nobis et successoribus nostris, quod nullus ad dictum officium in posterum, durante vita predicti Ricardi, admittatur, nisi prius coram Cancellario et procuratoribus, pro tempore existentibus, in plena congregacione pro tempore suo sufficientem inveniat securitatem. In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum nostre Universitatis commune presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo septimo die mensis Octobris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo secundo, annoque regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum vicesimo primo.*

157[2].

To the Lord Chancellor. Fol. 63 a.

One John Skibow is prosecuting for debt in your court one of our stationers, John More; in violation of our privileges, as the schedule inclosed (extracted from the charter granted us by King Henry IVth) plainly shows: we humbly pray, therefore, that you will stop the said prosecution and remit the cause to be tried and determined by us here. Master Roger Grey, one of our proctors, is charged to explain the case to you, and we invite your entire confidence in his statement.

Reverende in Christo pater et domine, protector noster specialissime, 1442.
dominacioni vestre nos humiliter commendatos offerimus; sub cujus

[1] Or perhaps *Clentworth* MS.

[2] No address, but apparently to the Lord Chancellor.

proteccionis magnifica prudencia nostre Universitatis et necessitudinis negocia piis defensionibus et favoribus amplexari. Quotiens aliquibus mater nostra Universitas pregravatur incommodis ad paternitatem vestram, ut ad inflexibilem recurrit justicie columnam; quam inter varios rerum eventus nostrum defensorem semper invenimus graciosum. Cum quidam Rogerus Skibow, cum breve de pretenso debito, prosequitur in cancellaria domini regis Johannem More, communem servientem nostrum, unum stationariorum nostre Universitatis; contra tenorem privilegiorum nostrorum—ut liquet in scedula presentibus inclusa, extracta de charta recolende nobis in eternum memorie domini Henrici quarti, eidem Universitati concessa—quamobrem paternitati vestre supplicamus humiliter et devote, quatinus mandare dignemini in prefata Cancellaria hujusmodi prosecucionem et placitum cessari; sed in dicta Universitate prosequi et penitus terminari: ut predicta privilegia nostra, ab illustribus regibus Anglie nobis concessa, et a serenissimo domino nostro rege nunc confirmata, illesa conservari valeant et defendi. Cetera, pro parte nostre Universitatis dominacioni vestre declaranda, honorabili viro, magistro Rogero Grey, ejusdem Universitatis altero procuratori, commisimus; cujus relatibus obsecramus humillime fidem credulam in his adhiberi. Et graciosa paternitas vestra in prosperitate votiva diu sub Domino valeat, ad sui honoris augmentum et meritum in hac via. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo vicesimo primo die Januarii.* Reverende paternitatis vestre oratrix specialis Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

158[1].

To the Duke of Gloucester.

The benefits you have conferred on the nation are imperishable; the actions of the just smell sweet and blossom in the dust. And that which confers the greatest splendour upon your name is that, after your successful repression of hereticks, you have endowed this University with books on every science; from which the press of study may squeeze the wine of knowledge and truth,—surely no nation, no University had ever such a prince; victorious, liberal, charitable, just! We have made a statute to secure your perpetual remembrance in our prayers, that neither the lapse of time may efface the memory of your fame, nor the glory of your future life eclipse the brightness of the past.

1442. Illustrissime, litteratissime et magnifice princeps, beneficiorum vestrorum in republica Anglicana sinceritas vivax, ac prepotentis

[1] No address, but to Duke of Gloucester.

celsitudinis vestre in eadem merita emori non possunt, sed fama duratura percelebri nova semper laude recordacioneque redolebunt felici. Quam dulce nobis certe super eis iterum atque iterum cogitare! Inter cetera tamen id ipsum potentissime serenitatis vestre magno splendori[1] est, quod, post repressionem hereticorum contra Dei ecclesiam machinancium per vos factam, potissime vineam Domini, ancillam vestram Universitatem Oxoniensem, libris omnium scienciarum et virtutum instaurastis; e quibus abunde vina sciencie et veritatis torculare studii premantur. Inde gracias, inde laudes, inde vota nostra his litteris humilibus explicamus; sed non sufficimus ad condignum. Que Universitatum tam munificum, tam illustrem, tam magnificum experta est principem? cui milicia semper invicta, animus liberalissimus, cujus caritas in omnes, justicia ad singulos, injuria in nullos. Quis sapiencium honorator tam pius, sustentator tam efficax, scienciarum, virtutum ac librorum amplificator tam prodigus? quibus non modo illuminata vivencium sunt corda, ad Dei laudem et virtutis crementum; sed per secula futura amplius illustrabitur posteritas futurorum. An delabi potest tantarum rerum memoria felix? Non: sed semper in benediccione erit. Statuitur, et execucione continua firmatur, in dicta oratrice vestra lex pro vobis oracionum non defutura, sed in memoriale perpetuum permansura. Quare, etsi liquescere fluxu temporis, aut exortu majorum obumbrata perire ceterorum fama principum possit, vestra tamen oblivionis perire sub nube non potest; nec umbra majorum beneficiorum verisimiliter occultari. Si Alexandri victoriosissima facta ad aures indies renovata redeunt per sapiencium Grecorum scemata qui talia commisere scriptis; quanto magis Universitas vestra oratrix devota in finem seculi opera vestra testabitur magnifica, tum oracionibus tum scripturis? Immo, si lingua sileret cunctorum, testabitur magis quam loquendo res ipsa: ipsa, videlicet, preciosissima theologie, medicine et septem scienciarum liberalium numero centum triginta et novem volumina, in libraria ibidem ex vestra collacione reposita, in summarum virtutis et munificencie vestrarum testimonium sempiternum. Precamur igitur hanc Universitatem vestram considerare[2] velitis ut vineam, ut ancillam vestram et perpetuam oratricem. Et Ipse Dominus gloriosus, qui ad tanta benefacienda serenitatem vestram selegit, vobis fructus Spiritus concedat, et ad universitatem sanctorum conducat. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Januarii die quinto et vicesimo.* Serenitatis vestre humillima oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Fol. 63 b.

[1] *spendori* MS. [2] *considere* ib.

Acquittance of Eynsham and Oseney Abbeys.

1442. MEMORANDUM, quod sexto die mensis Februarii sigillata fuerat acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, de sexaginta octo solidis, de anno regni regis Henrici sexti vicesimo primo, sub forma communi, que patet prius folio tricesimo quarto.

Memorandum, quod vicesimo die Marcii sigillata erat acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Osney, de viginti sex solidis octo denariis annue pensionis, pro anno regni regis Henrici sexti vicesimo primo, sub forma communi, ut supra.

Testimonial letters for Masters William Kynwolmershe, Clement ffelmyngham, Roger Gray, and John Halywey.

1443. MEMORANDUM, quod secundo die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo tercio, sigillata est littera testimonialis pro magistro Willelmo Kynwolmershe sub forma communi; hoc addito quod additur, *quod ipse bacallarius formatus.*

Memorandum, quod quarto die mensis Junii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo tercio, sigillata est littera testimonialis pro fratre Clemente ffelmyngham, doctore sacre theologie, sub forma communi, ut supra.

Memorandum, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo tercio, quinto die mensis Julii, sigillata est littera testimonialis pro magistro Rogero Gray, arcium magistro, sub forma communi; *hoc addito,* '*nostre Universitatis nuper providi procuratore et pacis ejusdem fervidi defensore.*'

Item, in eodem die sigillata est littera testimonialis pro magistro Johanne Halywey, sub forma communi, &c.

159.

Fol. 64 a.

Indemnification of the Proctors.

The University undertakes to defend, and indemnify for any loss, the two proctors, who are at present being prosecuted in a lawsuit by certain graduates in Civil Law.

1443. UNIVERSIS Christi fidelibus, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, salutem in omnium Salvatore. Quia ad requisicionem et instanciam quorumdam civilistarum deliberatum erat per

Universitatem Oxoniensem, tercio decimo die mensis Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo secundo, in plena congregacione regencium omnium facultatum in eadem; quod si contingat Universitatem predictam esse absque doctore juris civilis, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis haberent potestatem, sicut et in aliis actibus habent, deputandi aliquem magistrum arcium, qui, in defectu talis doctoris, valeat scolares facultatis juris predicti ad ejusdem facultatis gradus presentare; quam quidem deliberacionem quidam ejusdem Universitatis civiliste impugnantes, vexant injuste venerabiles viros magistros Rogerum Grey et Thomam Walkyngton, confratres nostros et nostre Universitatis procuratores: Hinc dicta Universitas in predicta hujusmodi causa per ipsos civilistas, ut predictum est, mota et non per prefatos procuratores, concedit et obligat se per presentes dictos magistros defendere et servare indemnes, et eorum utrumque, quantum ad predictam causam, sumptibus et expensis ipsius Universitatis. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Maii die quinto, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum vicesimo primo.*

Testimonial letter for Master Thomas Eboralle. 1443.

Memorandum, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo tercio, sexto die mensis Junii, sigillate sunt littere testimoniales pro magistro Thoma Eboralle, doctore sacre theologie, sub forma communi.

Memorandum, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo tercio, sexto decimo die mensis Augusti, erant tres littere sigillate ab Universitate, domino Cardinali Eboracensi, comiti Northumbrie, et decano et capitulo Eboracensi sub formis sequentibus.

160.

To the Archbishop of York.

Nothing makes the spiritual father more beloved than his favour shown to the seats of learning, wherein rises the light by which kings are guided in government, the morals of Christians are reformed, and heresies extirpated in the Church. The earl of Northumberland has given the advowson of the church of Arnclyffe to University College, our eldest daughter; we pray you therefore, as a mother might appeal to the affection of her son, that, considering the impoverished condition of the

said college at this time, you and the chapter of your cathedral will be favourable to this society in the appropriation of the benefice.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Johanni, Dei gracia Archiepiscopo Eboracensi, Cardinali presbytero, Anglie primati, nostro domino gracioso.

1443. Reverencias humillimas et oracionum tributa penes Deum. Reverendissime pater, ex variis catholicorum edocemur sentenciis, quod spiritualis patris fama tunc lacius crescit[1] in orbe, flosque immarcidus sui honoris dignissime laudis fragrancia redolescit in populo, cum benevolencie sue radios ad loca specialius emiserit studiosa; in quibus oritur lumen sciencie, quo reges regunt subditos, mores reformantur Christianorum, et horrenda extirpantur genimina heresium et errorum. Et quia dominus comes Northumbrie ex gracia sua contulit advocacionem ecclesie parochialis de Arunclyffe, vestre diocesis, ad augmentum salutaris sciencie, collegio 'Universitatis' vulgate nuncupato, pro sacra theologia fundato, que est senior filia nostra; igitur ad vestre paternitatis graciam, quem quondam in tenera etate nostri lactis pavimus dulcedine, confidencie vestre alas induimus convolando; supplicantes corditer ut mater ad filium, et humiliter ut filia ad patrem, quatenus in appropriacione ecclesie predicte, per graciam vestram et per capitulum Eboracense expedite fienda, pium vestrum paternum favorem prebere dignemini graciose; considerantes paupertatem dicti collegii, propter graves expensas in reparacione ruinosarum edium sui victus; ut has nostras preces, devote pro se oblatas, sibi senciat profuisse. Reverendissimam paternitatem vestram, ad ecclesie regimen fideique munimen, sic dirigat in terris Deus ipse, ut finaliter collocet cum beatis. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre convocacionis domo, mensis Augusti die sexto decimo.* Oratrix vestra Universitas Oxonie.

161.

Fol. 64 b. **To the Earl of Northumberland.**

Immortal honour is by nothing so certainly won as by those actions which foster the true faith, banish heresy, and provide medicine for the soul. Of this kind is your magnificent benefaction to our elder daughter, University College. We doubt not but that a full reward awaits you in heaven; and, for our part, we shall not fail to pray for your welfare in this life and repose after death.

1443. Nobilissime probitatis domino, Domino Henrico Percy, comiti Northumbrie et domino honoris de Cokyrmouth. Illustri et magnanimo domino, catholice fidei inexpugnabili turri, ob relevamen

[1] *diesit* MS.

ecclesie et cleri, post militaris cinguli[1] strenuitatem in terris cum gloriosis Christi militibus eterne beatitudinis laurea insigniri! Cum inter ceteras reipublice curas nullum opus magis facit nomen principis indelibili memoria laudabilibus attolli preconiis, quam quo fides pululat, heresis exulat, vineaque doctrine fructificat ad remedium animarum; unde serenam dominacionem vestram inestimabilis Spiritus sancti clemencia inspiravit; cum sacre theologie studium, videlicet collegium Universitatis, vulgate nuncupatum nostram seniorem filiam, magnifice promovistis, ad munimen et incrementum fidei ortodoxe: ubi memoriale nominis vestri percelebris vivet in seculum seculi apud Deum, et a generacione in generacionem apud homines in eternum. In quo facto in hac terrestriali vita Deo uniri disposuistis nos per graciam, et in futuro per fruicionem beatifice visionis. O leta unio creature suo creatori per naturam, O letior unio racionabilis anime Omnipotenti per graciam, O letissima unio comprehensoris toti ineffabili Trinitati per gloriam! Ille igitur felix merito est dicendus, qui id agit opus quo ad talem unitatem valeat respirare: Profecto condigne remuneracionis vera munera magnanimitati vestre parantur in celis, cum militum suorum reminiscetur Deus, quos sue virtutis premii gloria saciabit. Nos quoque devotarum graciarum tributa, que valemus, dominacioni vestre persolvimus; nec deerunt nostrarum oracionum incensa pro prosperitate vestra in via et requie post hanc lucem. Dominacionem vestram, ad felix ecclesie regimen et regni robur, preservet cum victoria potencia omnium Creatoris. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Augusti die sexto decimo.* Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum[2] regencium non-regenciumque in eadem.

162.

To the Dean and Chapter of York.

Whereas the Earl of Northumberland has given the advowson of Arncliffe to University College, a society founded solely for the study of theology, we beg that you will not hinder the appropriation of the benefice, remembering the great poverty of the said college owing to the ruinous condition of its buildings.

VENERABILIBUS magistris, dominis decano et capitulo ecclesie metropolitane Eboracensis. Venerabiles magistri, nobis specialiter 1443.

[1] This word seems to have been spelt *singuli* in the MS. and then corrected, but the writing is very faint and difficult here. [2] *magistrorum regenciumque* MS.

benivoli, felicissima successuum incrementa votiva, et sinceris cum affectubus annuere postulatis. Quia nuper ex Spiritus clemencia septiformis pio cordi domini comitis Northumbrie inspiratum erat celitus, ut, ad Dei laudis honorem augmentumque studii salutaris, conferret advocacionem ecclesie parochialis de Arunclyffe Eboracensis diocesis collegio Universitatis, vulgate nuncupato seniori filie nostre, pro sacre theologie solum studio fundato; ut lumen fidei nullatenus paciatur eclipsim, sed clarius omni populo elucescat: igitur vestri capituli venerabilis cetui devota precum libamina effundimus pia mente; unanimiter supplicantes, quatenus circa appropriacionem dicte ecclesie, prefato collegio fiendam, favorem vestrum benignum graciosa cum benevolencia adhibere dignemini; pio animo considerantes paupertatem dicti collegii, propter importabiles expensas ruinosarum edium victus sui; ut has matris[1] preces deprecantis pro filia sibi cum effectu senciat valituras. Et venerabilem cetum vestrum de bono semper in melius prosperare faciat Trinitas benedicta. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Augusti die sexto decimo.* Universitas Oxoniensis.

163.

To Mr. Thomas Knolle3, citizen of London and grocer.

We hear that you regard our University with favour, and propose to give us a copy of Josephus' 'antiquities.' This is a happy thought; for we possess not the book; and now, instead of being in private hands and 'hidden under a bushel,' it will be raised aloft to give light to all in the household of God. Doubtless the beatific vision will be the reward of those whose actions have strengthened the faith; and, in the mean time, we shall pray for your welfare here and hereafter.

1443. Venerabili viro et sensato Thome Knolle3, civitatis Londoniensis civi et grossero. Venerabilis domine, felicium incrementa successuum semper prospero cum honore. Quia ex fidedigne relacionis serie nuper concepimus, quod amicicie vestre grata benignitas Universitatem nostram piis amplexatur favoribus, et in hujus signum quendam librum Josephi '*in antiquitatibus*' proponitis eidem Universitati largiri; in quo facto percelebre memoriale vestrum lucebit omni populo, ad vestri meriti augmentum coram Altissimo consequendum,—O felix intencio vestra, felicius propositum, felicissimaque execucio! quoniam tantam historiarum lucem inocciduam, nec prius inter nos habitam, non sub modio in privato loco, sed altam super columpnam erigi

[1] *matres* MS.

publico decrevistis, ut omnibus luceat qui in domo Domini sunt, ad Dei honorem et gloriam, scintillantisque fame splendoribus in orbe prerutilet universo. Presertim inter cetera pietatis opera id magis putamus in animarum redundare salutem, quod[1] ad ortodoxe fidei fulcimentum sciencieque incrementum principalius se extendit. Igitur quam digne retribucionis merita reverencie vestre parantur in celis; cum suorum fidelium reminiscatur Deus; quos sue beatissime visionis gloria saciabit. Et nos quas valemus reverencie vestre cordiales acciones referimus graciarum; nec deerunt in futurum nostrarum oracionum incensa pro prosperitate vestra in hac vita[2], et anime vestre salute in futura. Reverenciam vestram prosperari faciat de bono semper in melius virtus almiflua Domini Dei nostri. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Augusti die ultimo.* Universitas Oxoniensis.

164.

To Masters Andrew Huls, Richard Caunton, and W. Symond. Fol. 65 a.

We send you a letter of commendation to the Pope in behalf of Master Henry Severe, our Chancellor; we therefore request that you, or any one of you, will present it to his holiness, carefully choosing your opportunity; and that you will likewise, as occasion shall serve, sound the praises of Master Severe: for, both on account of his wisdom and virtue, and also of his great services in the office of Chancellor, we desire that due honour should be paid to him. The main object of our letter to his holiness is to request that he will write to the King in Master Severe's behalf. If you can obtain such a letter you will do us acceptable service.

Honorabilibus et sincere dilectis magistris, Andree Huls, Ricardo Caunton et W. Symond, aut eorum uni. Honorabiles et sincere dilecti; sanctissimo in Christo patri et domino, nostro domino Eugenio, summo pontifici, litteras commendaticias pro eruditissimo et gravissimo viro, magistro Henrico Severe, sacre pagine professore, serenissimi principis et domini nostri regis capellano, atque rectore et Cancellario nostro direximus; quare vos[3], et quemlibet vestrum, rogamus ut hujusmodi litteras vobis, aut vestrum uni, ab exhibitore presencium redditas curetis, aut curet ille vestrum cui eas tradi contigerit, eidem sanctissimo domino nostro, captata opportunitate temporis, cum omni honore, devocione, ac observancia nomine nostro 1443.

[1] *quo* MS. [2] *via* or *vita*, completely blotted out in MS., but see epistle 161. [3] *nos* MS.

exhiberi: atque eundem rectorem et Cancellarium nostrum, quando res et tempus postulaverit, testimonio vestro atque omni genere laudis ornetis. Etenim magnopere optamus ut illi, tum propter singularem ejus virtutem ac sapienciam, tum eciam ob maxima et amplissima merita in nos tempore officii collata, honor aliquis tali ac tanto viro dignus deferatur. Verum vestrum humanitati convenire arbitramur, ad rogatum matris nullum officium, nullum studium, quod ad honorem laudem et promocionem hujus viri pertineat, pretermittere: quem nos ex causis memoratis summo studio et precipua benevolencia prosequimur. Id vero a sanctitate apostolica per litteras nostras potissimum optamus, ut ad serenissimum principem et dominum nostrum regem, pro prefato rectore et Cancellario, epistola quedam commendaticia singulariter et humanissime scripta dirigatur: ut ejusmodi apostolice commendacionis optentu majorem favorem et graciam apud regiam serenitatem inveniat. Itaque gratissimum nobis feceritis, si detis operam ut he littere commendaticie quamprimum impetrentur, et ad regiam serenitatem destinentur: quod ut diligenter et studiose curetis vehementer rogamus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Octobris die primo et vicesimo.* Alma mater Universitas Oxoniensis.

165.

1443. **To the Pope.**

Knowing that your holiness always favours the virtuous and learned, we do not fear to commend to you Master Henry Severe our Chancellor; whom, if you knew him as we do, you would deem worthy of esteem. He has ever been most zealous for your interests in these troublous days of schism, and by his influence disputations have been held here by the most learned doctors in defence of the true faith. We may add that he has so discharged the duties of his office among us that we consider it a direct intervention of providence that he was elected Chancellor. We venture to beg that you will write to the King on his behalf a letter of such a kind as will advance him in the royal favour.

Sanctissimo in Christo patri et domino nostro, Domino Eugenio, divina providencia sacrosancte Romane et universalis ecclesie summo pontifici.

Quum animadvertimus sanctitatem vestram, beatissime pater, studiose semper operam dare ut viri gravitate [1] ac virtute litterarumque sciencia prediti uberiori gracia beatitudinis vestre atque amplioribus sedis apos-

[1] *pravitate* MS.

tolice beneficiis letarentur, non veremur pro tali viro scribere, quem si eque atque nos cognosceret sanctitas vestra, ob sublime ingenium, magnarum rerum cognicionem, gravissimos ac humanissimos mores suos, non solum accurata commendacione sed singulari et favore et gracia apostolica dignum judicaret eadem sanctitas vestra. Itaque clarum et excellentem virum, magistrum Henricum Severe, sacre pagine professorem, serenissimi principis et domini nostri Anglie Francieque regis capellanum, atque rectorem et Cancellarium nostrum, gravem sane hominem et in primis eruditum, eximiaque virtute ac singulari sapiencia ornatum, sic sacre vestre majestati commendamus, ut neque majori studio quemquam neque justioribus ex causis commendare possimus. Qui cum semper antea, tum vero his molestis et turbulentis temporibus presentis scismatis, studiosissimus fuit salutis et dignitatis vestre. Etenim impulsu, consilio et ornatu suo apud nos, pro vestra auctoritate et potestate adversus illam pestiferam scismaticorum sectam, a pluribus doctis et prestantissimis viris solemnes disputaciones ac exquisite et pulcherrime determinaciones celebrantur. Accedit, quod nobis tempore officii ac regiminis sui omnia suo consilio et sapiencia prospere processerint: nec unquam optima illa studia litterarum et sapiencie vehemencius ac studiosius colebantur. Plane tam multis in rebus nobis usui et ornamento fuit, Fol. 65 b.
ut ipsum non solum de nobis optime meritum, sed eciam divina quadam sorte in rectorem et caput nostrum assumptum esse existimemus. Quare cum ei cupere debeamus que ad honorem et dignitatem suam pertineant, sanctitatem vestram obsecramus et obtestamur, ut memorato illustrissimo principi regi nostro eundem rectorem nostrum et Cancellarium[1] per vestras sacras litteras diligenter et humanissime commendetis; quatinus ipse talem virum, quem virtus ingenium et sapiencia commendant, contemplacione vestrarum litterarum liberalius et beneficencius complectatur. Nam etsi ob gravitatem et prudenciam suam regie celsitudini semper antea jocundus et gratissimus fuerit, plurimum tamen proderit auctoritas commendacionis vestre, facietque ut ipse uberiorem graciam atque illustrem aliquem virtutis fructum a magnifico et liberali principe maturius assequatur; quod vestre sanctitati splendorem afferet, nobis vero incredibilem jocunditatem. Postremo divinam potenciam exoramus, ut vestram sanctitatem, beatissime pater, salvam et incolumem in tempora longiora conservet. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Octobris die vicesimo primo.*

[1] *Cancellarium nostrum* MS.

166.

To Frederick, King of the Romans.

Your letter, which breathes regard for us and an earnest desire for unity and peace, has been a source of joy and comfort to us; and that you should communicate to us, in this remote land, your plans and purpose is a mark of your signal favour. We see in your efforts to calm the troubled sea, on which the boat of S. Peter is tossed, a sign of reviving unity. Secular princes can do much in such a cause; and our King will, we know, even unasked, do all a Christian prince should do; but we will not fail, whenever your highness desires us to do so, to add our prayers to yours that he will exert his influence in this behalf, so dear to every true son of the church.

1443. ILLUSTRISSIMO et gloriosissimo principi, Frederico, Romanorum regi.

Nobis superioribus diebus, illustrissime princeps, perturbacionem turbulentumque statum ecclesie graviter molesteque ferentibus, non mediocre gaudium et consolacionem attulerunt sacri affatus litterarum tuarum; quibus non optabilem solum erga nos humanitatem serenitatis tue, sed eciam circa unitatem apostolice sedis atque reformacionem pacis in ecclesia Dei summum studium sinceramque devocionem agnoscimus. Nam quod nobis, tanto locorum intervallo disjunctis, racionem animi atque consilii tui per litteras prudentissime ac humanissime scriptas signaveris, nostrumque officium in tam sancto et sublimi negocio desideraris, usque adeo gratissimum fuit ut maximum nobis munus existimemus a tua celsitudine tributum. Quod si ad sedandum perniciosam presentis scismatis tempestatem, qua navicula S. Petri his luctuosis temporibus indigne concussa sit atque miseris modis jactata, tantam curam, laborem ac diligenciam adhibeas, sicut accipimus[1], magnificencie tue congratulamur; quasi lumen aliquod renascentis unionis in ecclesia Dei perspicere videremur. Neque enim nos fugit, in tanto et tam excelso opere conficiendo, quantum tua ceterorumque Christiane religionis principum magnitudo atque potencia poterit. Regem vero nostrum, Christianissimum et sapientissimum principem, etsi pro sua sapiencia, devocione, ac integritate religionis audeamus affirmare omnia, cum sponte sua, tum contemplacione litterarum tuarum hec acturum curaturumque, que apostolicis sanccionibus, tradicionibus sanctorum patrum, regie fortune atque Christiano principi in ejusmodi negocio conveniant; non deerunt

[1] *sicut* repeated before *magnificencie* MS.

tamen, quando eciam cupit celsitudo tua, adhortaciones nostre. Nec enim quidquam Christiane religionis orthodoxeque fidei cultoribus vehemencius expediendum aut diligencius curandum censemus, quam quod pax hujusmodi atque unio quamprimum et qua optima racione in ecclesia Dei reformetur. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, sexto et vicesimo die mensis Octobris.* Cancellarius et Universitas studii Oxoniensis. Fol. 66 a.

167.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

The continual increase of your munificence calls forth more and more gratitude and devotion; and when we heard from Master Grey that you intend, with unexampled generosity, to add another gift of books to your former donation; and received his report of your gracious words on this occasion, our hearts were inflamed with reverent affection, and inexpressible joy. Your name was in every mouth; some wondered at your magnificence, some praised your exalted virtues, some your pursuit of learning and your literary talent; and all uttered their prayers for your health, wealth and safety; and indeed that you are but mortal is our bitterest thought. We send to you Masters H. Severe and T. Chace to be our legal representatives in receiving your donation, and to act in all respects as you shall desire therein. If other nations celebrate your fame, how much more should we, who enjoy your presence? What praise, what respect, what affection must we not feel? You have more than restored the University to its ancient glory; and no lapse of time can ever efface the memory of a prince so enlightened.

Serenissimo ac illustrissimo principi Umfrido[1], duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, magno camerario Anglie et domino ac protectori nostro graciosissimo. 1443.

Illustrissime et ornatissime princeps, congratulatur magnificencie vestre tota illa vestra Universitas Oxoniensis, atque pro liberalissimis in se et divinis beneficiis vestris summas et eternas gracias agit. Nam cum vestra pietate et munificencia cumulacius cotidie atque magnificencius aucti ornatique sumus, equissimum est ut nostra simul in vestram celsitudinem devocio, cultus, et observancia vehemencius augeantur, magisque atque magis conflagrent[2]. Nobis enim nuperrime gratum, jucundum, et optabile nuncium attulit a sublimitate vestra confrater noster Rogerus Grey, jampridem alter ex procuratoribus Universitatis nostre; vos, videlicet, animum induxisse, ad vestrum illud pristinum solemne ac magnificentissimum librorum

[1] *Unfrido* MS. [2] *conflagret* ib.

munus, ad illam illustrem et ornatissimam Universitatis nostre suppellectilem, nova inauditaque liberalitate et beneficencia aliud voluminum atque librorum donum, quasi quendam cumulum adicere. Enimvero ubi animum, consilium, omnesque humanissimos ac suavissimos sermones vestros a memorato magistro Rogero accepimus, toti amore, obsequio, et pietate in vestram serenitatem exarsimus, atque incredibili leticia et exultacione efferebamur. Fuit in ore cujusquam nomen principis Humfridi. Alii magnificenciam admirari, alii singulares atque excelsas virtutes celebrare, alii denique in liberalissimis sapiencia et humanitatis studiis diligenciam, atque in omni genere litterarum ingenii vestri claritudinem extollere; atque omnes pro vita, statu ac incolumitate vestra crebras assiduasque supplicaciones superne majestati offerre ceperunt. Nec quidquam ingracius aut apud animos nostros acerbius fuit, quam parentem et tutorem Universitatis Oxoniensis, cujus beneficia immortalia et eterna futura sint, immortalem non esse. Itaque ad celsitudinem vestram claros et eruditos viros, magistrum Henricum Sever, nostre Universitatis Cancellarium, et magistrum Thomam Chays, sacre theologie professores, nostros veros nuncios, negociorum gestores atque legittimos procuratores destinamus; ut ipsi vice ac nomine nostro hujusmodi donacionem librorum, juxta auctoritatem [1] consilium et sapienciam vestram, admittant, recipiant et acceptent; omniaque alia gerant, curent atque conficiant, que vestre magnificencie in hac parte grata fuerint. Quod si extere et disjunctissime gentes, fame tantum celebritate atque illustri et pervagatissima rerum gestarum gloria impulse [2], nomen Humfridi annalibus ac posteritati commendent; atque litteris, linguis et omni denique genere laudis illustrent; nos, qui eum presentem in patria habemus, cujus pietate, beneficencia ac liberalitate cotidie fruimur, quibus laudibus efferemus, quibus studiis prosequemur, quanta benevolencia atque cultu complectemur? Itaque manebit in mentibus Oxoniensium impressa memoria beneficiorum vestrorum, nec eam unquam aut diuturnitas temporis aut oblivio obscurabit: ibitque in posteros fuisse principem, qui Oxoniensem Universitatem pristina fecunditate atque gloria orbatam, amicis librisque destitutam atque ruentem, quasi labefactatam non solum jacentem et perculsam erexit, sed ejus pristinam splendorem [3] amplissima liberalitate multis maximisque [4] ornamentis amplificavit [5]. Hoc nomen illustrabit, hoc glorie vestre lumen accendet, princeps ornatissime. Quare exultet et letetur magnificencia vestra, atque fruatur fortuna et gloria sua: que ut floreat et propagetur in magnam etatem,

[1] *actoritatem* MS. [2] *impulsi* ib. [3] *splendoremque* ib. [4] *maximeque* ib. [5] *amplicavit* ib.

summo studio, sempiterna benevolencia atque perpetuis precacionibus divinam Majestatem nos obsecrare pollicemur. *Datum Oxonie.* Vestra devota Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

Fol. 66 b.

MEMORANDUM, quod nono die mensis Novembris sigillata erat acquietancia pro Abbate de Enysham, sub hac forma;—Noverint universi per presentes nos Henricum Severe, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, W. Franceys, Johannem Trystropp, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos sterlingorum, in partem solucionis majoris summe, racione cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati annuatim solvende: De quibus quidem sex et viginti solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde esse quietos per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, nono die mensis Novembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum vicesimo secundo.* 1443.

168.

To Thomas Knoll, citizen of London.

We have received by the hands of our brother, Master Metford, your most acceptable gift of Josephus' 'Antiquities' *and* 'Wars of the Jews.' *It is a gift most becoming your wealth, wisdom, and culture. Benevolence to a single individual is a noble thing; how much more so must be that, which is felt by the whole of this University; and will assist in maintaining the true faith of the Church.*

EGREGIO et honorabili ac sincere dilecto, Thome Knoll, civi civitatis Londoniensis. 1443.

Honorabilis et sincere dilecte, gratum et optabile donum humanitatis vestre, volumen scilicet illud, duos libros Josephi '*Antiquitatum*' et '*de bello Judaico*' in se complectens, jampridem per manus magistri Roberti Mettford, arcium magistri, confratris nostri carissimi libenter et cum magna gratulacione accepimus. Nec enim quidquam videmus, quod vel vestra fortuna sapiencia et humanitate dignius, aut nobis, qui studia humanitatis ac sapiencie colimus, optabilius facere possetis, quam hos gratissimos ac elegantissimos libros Josephi, qui ad rerum antiquarum cognicionem et sacrarum litterarum interpretacionem plurimum conferant, nostre Universitati tribuisse. Nam, si in unum beneficum et liberalem esse preclarum sit et laude dignum, quanti

eam denique liberalitatem estimari convenit, ex qua magnus conventus, magna multitudo hominum atque tota magna quedam et ampla Universitas singularem utilitatem atque optimos fructus percipiet. Eleganter enim sapientes bonum quod communius sit et lacius pateat eo preferabilius et divinius esse litterarum memorie prodiderunt. Vestra vero hec munificencia usque adeo late fuseque manat, ut eciam ad sacrosancte ecclesie Dei et orthodoxe fidei Christianeque religionis sustentacionem pertinere videatur. Quare humanitati vestre singulares et amplissimas gracias agimus; operamque dabimus, si qua in re nostra benevolencia aut opera vobis opportuna fuerit, ut et hoc munere vestro atque liberalitate nos dignos judicetis. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Decembris die sexto.* Cancellarius et Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Testimonial letter for Master Richard Wyld.

1443. MEMORANDUM, quod sexto decimo die Januarii, sigillata erat littera testimonialis pro magistro Ricardo Wyld, sub forma communi; que ponitur folio vicesimo quarto.

169.

Fol. 67 a. **To the Archbishop of Canterbury.**

A great abuse has grown up in the University, by the exaction of immoderate and discreditable fees upon graduation; which Master W. Babynton has long been endeavouring to repress. In consequence of this his public spirit he has become involved in a ruinous lawsuit, determined at last in his favour, but the execution whereof is yet delayed by the frivolous subterfuges and appeals of his opponent. We believe both parties are willing to submit the matter to your arbitration; and we beg that in your wisdom you will take into consideration not only the aspect of the case, as it concerns plaintiff and defendant, but also the very serious scandal of the exactions in question, which were never heard of in time past.

1443. REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri, et domino nostro singulari, Archiepiscopo Cantuariensi.

MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo octavo die mensis Januarii, sigillata erat hec littera subscripta, que sequitur.

Reverencias debitas pariter et honores, ac nostre devocionis completum exequium. Non fugit, ut arbitramur, reverendissime in Christo pater, a sacra vestra memoria, quanta diligencia, sollicitudine, ac labore confrater noster, sincere dilectus magister W. Babynton,

decretorum doctor, vir sane gravis moribus, sciencia ac integritate vite apud nos probatus, extirpacionem abolicionemque[1] cujusdam perniciose consuetudinis, que inter nos circa immoderatas et turpes exacciones pecuniarum in succepcione graduum, contra bonos mores in nonnullis facultatibus jam diu invaluit, multis diebus promoverit. Et quamvis in causa illa extorcionis et injuste detencionis cujusdam summe pecuniarie, adversus magistrum Johannem Scotbow decretorum doctorem coram commissariis domini regis judicialiter intendebat, damnum et jacturam rei familiaris persequi videatur, . . .[2] tamen et victoriam non dubitamus ad commune bonum et honorem Universitatis nostre pertinere. Quare cum idem confrater noster, magister Willelmus, ut accepimus, post magnas molestias, moras, impensas et vexaciones plurimas, victoriam optinuit, atque . . .[2] magister Johannes Scotbow, excogitatis quibusdam artibus, subterfugiis et frivolis appellacionibus, execucionem rei judicate retardet et suspendat; necnon utraque pars ad hoc facile, ut audivimus, suum assensum accommodaret ut tota hec questio et contraversia vestre paternitatis arbitrio et diffinicione dirimatur; hortamur in Domino amplitudinem et sacram gravitatem vestram, ac vehementer obsecramus, ut in examinacione hujus cause, (quam non dubitamus vos pro luce sapiencie, auctoritatis, et eminencie equo lance trutinare), ante oculos vestros statuatis non solum honestum et justissimum desiderium nostrum[3], prosequentis desperatam quoque defensionem prefati magistri Johannis, eciam jam damnatam ac recta diffinicione judicum reprobatam; sed eciam honorem et decus Universitatis nostre, que jam multis annis, sed nunquam majus quam in (his)[4] temporibus, et per eum precipue, hujusmodi turpitudine et corruptela diffamata et indigne deformata fuit; nedum in dispendium prefati magistri Willelmi, verum eciam in quam plurimum succedencium sibi graduatorum prejudicium pariter et gravamen. Existimat enim Universitas mater nostra, que hujusmodi questus turpissimi maculis respergi antiquitus non solebat, nunc per vestrum sagax et discretum arbitrium ac justam ordinacionem, sese notam hujus infamie effugere, atque pristine dignitatis laudem recuperare. Postremo ob illam humanitatem et graciam, quam hactenus eidem confratri nostro, magistro Willelmo in hac parte exhibueritis, amplissimas gracias agimus; humillime supplicantes ut in posterum, contemplacione precacionum nostrarum, immensis ejusdem ponderatis expensis et laboribus, uberiorem favorem et graciam dominacionis vestre consequatur. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, &c.* Cancellarius et Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

[1] *abolucionemque* MS. [2] A word illegible here in MS. [3] *vestrum* MS.
[4] *his* omitted ib.

Acquittance of Eynsham and Oseney Abbeys.

1443. MEMORANDUM, quod undevicesimo die Februarii, sigillata fuerat acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, pro quadraginta solidis, de anno regni regis Henrici sexti vicesimo secundo, sub forma communi, que ponitur superius folio tricesimo quarto.

MEMORANDUM, quod eodem die, sigillata erat acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Osney, pro viginti sex solidis octo denariis, sub eadem forma et pro eodem anno regni regis Henrici sexti.

Indenture between the Duke of Gloucester and the University,

in which the latter acknowledges the receipt of one hundred and twenty-nine volumes, by the hands of Masters William Say and Ralph Drew, the special messengers of the former.

1443. HEC INDENTURA, facta Oxonie, vicesimo quinto die mensis Februarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo tercio, et regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum vicesimo secundo, inter serenissimum et illustrissimum principem et dominum, inclitissimum dominum Humfridum, regum filium, fratrem et patruum, ducem Gloucestrie, comitem Pembrochie et magnum camerarium Anglie ex una parte, ac suam humillimam et perpetuam oratricem Universitatem[1] Oxoniensem ex altera parte, testatur, quod dicta Universitas, de summa et magnificentissima liberalitate predicti inclitissimi principis, centum et
Fol. 67 b. triginta quinque volumina, per dilectos et speciales nuncios suos, magistrum Willelmum Say et Radulphum Drew, ad ipsam Universitatem destinata recepit; quorum utique voluminum nomina cum iniciis secundorum foliorum inferius describuntur,

Inprimis, Anselmus Cantuar. Archiepiscopus . .	secundo folio	*sicut promissa.*
Item, '*Ierarchiam sub-celestium*'	secundo folio in libro	*universali doctrina.*
Item, Augustinus '*De vera inocencia*' . . .	secundo folio in tabula	*ordo temporum.*
Item, Trevett '*Super Psalterium*'	secundo folio .	*faciendum.*
Item, Augustinus '*Super Johannem*'	„ .	*tibi nisi qui.*

[1] *Universitate* MS.

Item, Petrus Blesensis . .	secundo folio libri	*-one glomerantur.*
Item, Joh. Crisostomus '*De compunccione*' . . .	secundo folio .	*meam.*
Item, Primum librum Johannis Crisostomi '*Ad Stagirium monachum*' .	„ .	*oriri si quis.*
Item, Librum memorie Ambrosii episcopi . .	„ .	*et immaterialia.*
Item, Librum commonitorium '*De contemptu mundi*' .	„ .	*nituntur ea.*
Item, Albertanus '*De modo dicendi et tacendi*' . .	secundo folio libri	*deinde.*
Item, '*Meditacio*' beati Bernardi	secundo folio .	*ei alii.*
Item, Liber '*Alkeron*' . .	„ .	*ceteris.*
Item, '*Epistolas*' Albini .	„ .	*imis justiciam.*
Item, Johannem Damascenum	secundo folio libri	*sensum.*
Item, '*Dialogum*' Ocham .	„ .	*Jesum tanquam.*
Item, Capgrave '*Super Regum,*' primum . . .	secundo folio .	*fuit vir.*
Item, Capgrave '*Super Regum,*' tercium . . .	„ .	*fulgorem.*
Item, Capgrave '*Super Genesim*'	„ .	*arduum.*
Item, Capgrave '*Super Exodum*'	„ .	*-vitudinem.*
Item, Athanasium '*De Trinitate*'	secundo folio libri	*-racti que.*
Item, '*Distincciones*' Abel .	secundo folio .	*Simeon.*
Item, '*Speculum virginum*' .	„ .	*supradicti medicinam.*
Item, '*De vita Origenis*' .	„ .	*dicitur.*
Item, Johannes Faber '*In lectura super Instituta*' .	„ .	*auctoritas.*
Item, Johannis Andree, '*Questiones mercuriales*' .	„ .	*conceptus.*
Item, '*Colectarium*' Johannis Galfridi super libros Decretalium	„ .	*primum.*
Item, '*Collectarium*' Johannis Galfridi	„ .	*recessit.*

Item, '*Collectarium*' Johannis Galfridi, quartum volumen super libros decretalium . . .	secundo folio	*judice stellatus.*
Item, '*Sompnum viridarium*' . .	,,	*direxisti.*
Item, '*Tabulam super decreta*' .	,,	*ablucio corporis.*
Item, '*Conclusiones Rote*' . .	,,	*post publicas.*
Item, '*Decreta sanctorum patrum*' .	,,	*nunc sex.*
Item, Aldrati '*Concilia*' . .	,,	*dicit enim.*
Item, '*Summa confessorum*' . .	,,	*est nisi.*
Item, Baldum '*super codicem*' . .	,,	*racio non est.*
Item, '*Speculatorem*' . . .	,,	*de consulibus.*
Item, Sextum librum '*decretalium*' .	,,	*deberent.*
Item, '*Decretales*'	,,	*suo quod.*
Item, Parvum volumen textus . .	,,	*manus.*
Item, Johannem Andree '*in novella*'	,,	*xxxii*[d].
Item, Baldum '*In lectura super tres libros ff*'	,,	*ut hic.*
Item, '*Petrum Jacobum*' . .	,,	*imperatorie.*
Item, '*Clementinas constituciones*' .	,,	*extra.*
Item, '*Spicam*'	,,	*abbas.*
Item, Joh. Andree	,,	*expiret.*
Item, '*Constanciensis concilii actus*' .	,,	*non curat.*
Item, Vincencius '*In speculo historiali*'	,,	*quia Herodes.*
Item, Vincencius '*In speculo historiali*'	,,	*Pipinum jam.*
Item, Vincencius '*In speculo historiali*'	,,	*in eo pauca.*
Item, '*In speculo historiali*' . .	,,	*-um hamas.*
Item, Vincencius '*In speculo naturali*'	,,	*quid utpote.*
Item, Secunda pars Vincencii '*In speculo naturali*' . . .	,,	*posicione.*
Item, '*Speculum doctrinale*' . .	,,	*creaturarum.*
Item, Eusebium	,,	*rubroque.*
Item, Trogus Pompeius '*De gestis Romanorum*'	,,	*-turali filie.*
Item, Egesippum '*De excidio Judeorum*'	,,	*domestici.*
Item, '*Eulogium historiale Anglie*' .	,,	*esset indecora.*
Item, '*Excidium Troje,*' secundum Daretem frigium . . .	,,	*Hercules.*

Item, '*Flores historiarum*' . .	secundo folio	*cessaverunt.*
Item, Chronica dicta '*Scala mundi*'	,,	*anno primo.*
Item, '*Granarium*' Johannis de loco frumenti	,,	*nunc me.*
Item, Secundam partem Johannis Granarii de loco frumenti . .	,,	*-bantur.*
Item, secundam et terciam Johannis Granarii de loco frumenti . .	,,	*hinc inde.*
Item, '*Policronicon*' . . .	,,	*sapiencie.*
Item, '*Epithomam*' Titi Livii . .	,,	*educatus.*
Item, '*Epithomam*' Titi Livii . .	,,	*subita.*
Item, Primam partem Titi Livii .	,,	*coalescencium.*
Item, Secundam partem Titi Livii .	,,	*urbem.*
Item, Josephum '*In antiquitatibus*' .	,,	*tradere.*
Item, Josephum '*In antiquitatibus*' .	,,	*ab extremis.*
Item, Librum Swetonii Gaii . .	,,	*-andrini.*
Item, '*Panagericum*' Plinii . .	,,	*moderacionemque.*
Item, '*Epistolas*' Plinii secundi .	,,	*non me.*
Item, Johannem Boccasium . .	,,	*-riarum.*
Item, Johannem Boccasium . .	,,	*amicicie.*
Item, Johannem Boccasium . .	,,	*non superflue.*
Item, Johannem Boccasium '*de montibus*'	,,	*agned.*
Item, Librum Andree dominici .	,,	*-retore.*
Item, Franciscum Petrarcham .	,,	*-tati.*
Item, Franciscum Petrarcham .	,,	*vide spacium.*
Item, Franciscum Petrarcham .	,,	*laas mesticie.*
Item, Franciscum Petrarcham .	,,	*si filia.*
Item, Franciscum Petrarcham .	,,	*toto orbe.*
Item, Franciscum Petrarcham .	,,	*quia nunc.*
Item, '*Vitam Camilli*' . . .	,,	*rebus gestis.*
Item, Libri Leonardi . . .	,,	*-terpres.*
Item, Petrum Candidum . . .	,,	*inquirentibus.*
Item, '*Epistolas*' Herberti . .	,,	*emoriatur.*
Item, '*Vitam Cimonis et Lucilli*' .	,,	*hominibus.*
Item, '*Epistolas*' Petri Abaralardi .	,,	*dicens.*
Item, Librum '*De re militari*' .	,,	*-cione.*
Item, Nicholai de Clemengiis '*Epistole*'	,,	*O vos.*
Item, '*Oracionem*' Eschinis . .	,,	*memores.*
Item, '*Commentaria*' Gaii . .	,,	*altissimo.*
Item, '*Vitam Marcii Antonii*' .	,,	*-etis eorum.*

Fol. 68 a.

	Item, Catonem Sensorium . .	secundo folio	*si non eo.*
	Item, Tranetta '*Super Boicio*' .	„	*catalogo.*
	Item, '*Pelapide vitam*' . . .	„	*Cato senior.*
Fol. 68 b.	Item, Palladium '*De agricultura*' .	„	*-tes bibencium.*
	Item, Titum Livium '*De republica*'	„	*optime.*
	Item, '*Epistolas declamatorias*' .	„	*-sulis.*
	Item, '*Isagogicum moralis discipline*'	„	*missa.*
	Item, '*Vitam Romuli*' . . .	„	*publicam.*
	Item, '*Vitam Demetrii*' . . .	„	*magnitudine.*
	Item, '*Epistolas*' Symmachi . .	„	*sicut ipse videris.*
	Item, '*Cosmographia*' Ptholomei .	„	*vel toto.*
	Item, Victorius '*De Architectura*' .	„	*quia et liberacionum.*
	Item, Dioscorides '*De simplicibus medicis*'	„	*vocat quia.*
	Item, Aristoteles '*De generacione animalium*'	„	*intus habent.*
	Item, Librum primum '*De simplicibus medicis*'	„	*jam ostendimus.*
	Item, Boicium commentatum . .	„	*juxta dictum.*
	Item, Ovidium '*De fastis*' . .	„	*dexter adest.*
	Item, Gwillimum de Saliseto . .	„	*infirmi.*
	Item, '*Phisica*' Plinii secundi Veronensis	„	*viginti* [1] *nasturcium.*
	Item, '*Commentaria*' Dantes . .	„	*et tormentabunt.*
	Item, Terencii Varronis tres libros '*De origine lingue latine*' . .	„	*pecus.*
	Item, Sallustium '*In Catalinario*' .	„	*honoris cupido.*
	Item, Librum Dantes . . .	„	*-ate.*
	Item, Verba greca, et interpretaciones lingue latine	„	*antidicas.*
	Item, Sermo '*Super libros Virgilii*'	„	*olim.*
	Item, Claudianum minorem . .	„	*anxie.*
	Item, Ovidium '*Methamorphoseos*' moralizatum	„	*amare.*

[1] The words '*viginti*' and '*nasturtium*' do not occur together in Pliny's *Nat. Hist.* The word in this MS. is undoubtedly '*nasturtium*,' but Mr. Madan, whose opinion has been invited on the subject, thinks it is perhaps a mistake of the scribe for '*nascentium*.' In Plin. *Nat. Hist.* Table of Contents (Lib. xix. cap. 21) occurs the word '*nascentium*,' and later on (cap. 44) '*nasturtium*.' Probably the scribe has confused the number of a chapter with the text.

Item, Nonium Marcellum . .	secundo folio	*inter se.*
Item, Ricardum '*De polis*' . .	„	*tum.*
Item, Comenta Boicii '*De consolatione*'	„	*dux copias.*
Item, Catonem comentatum . .	„	*-tis dono.*
Item, Librum Terrencii cum tabula .	„	*ad Pamphilum.*
Item, Adamas	„	*-lamus meus.*
Item, Franciscum Petrarcham . .	„	*ignorabam.*
Item, Egidium '*De regimine principum*'	„	*magnam.*
Item, '*Novam traduccionem tocius policie Platonice*' . . .	„	*-ris incitatam.*
Item, '*De vitiorum inter se differencia*'	„	*superest.*
Item, '*Vitas triginta virorum illustrium*'	„	*minus infimis.*

In quorum omnium fidem et testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis predicte presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, die et annis supradictis.*

170.

To the Bishop of Chichester[1]. Fol. 69 a.

Daily experience shows the necessity of a head to every body, and every member thereof; and whereas by the resignation of our Chancellor we find ourselves without one, we hope you will approve our choice of a successor, that the University may not languish in a state of widowhood, but, like another Esther, may put away her mourning garments and, arrayed in queenly attire, find favour in the eyes of her prince.

Reverendo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Ricardo, Dei gracia episcopo Cicestriensi. 1443.

Humillime devocionis spiritu reverencias debitas tanto patri et domino merito tribuendas cum honore, et ad optata animum graciosius inclinare. Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, quoniam praxis quotidiane satis experiencia edocemur quod corporis cujusdam viventis salus diu[2] florere nequit, cujus per anxietatis lesureve incommoda calumpniam jam pati capud evidencius cernitur; quo multo

[1] This epistle is in the same hand as Ep. 169, and is so faintly written and so illegible that it seems impossible to make a complete transcript. The sense, it is hoped, is fairly represented here. [2] *dius* MS.

magis virtus elongari conspicitur . . .[1] membrorum; et singula in proximo lapsum spondent irremediabilem, si jam penitus orbata capite moram prestolentur longiorem: Hinc est[2] quod nos dominacionem vestram informare decrevimus super viduitatis eventu nostre matris alme, et resignacione libera venerabilis viri, nuper Cancellarii nostri; in caritatis visceribus affectuosius unanimiter exorantes, ut intuitu[3] vestre pietatis viscerose, quam erga matrem nostram semper geritis, nec audita minuant nec sinistre relata quomodolibet expellant: sed matris desolacione humanissime compaciendo, ne supplicacionis nostre pupilli paciamur repulsam, interne caritatis fervor vestre dominacionis precordia stimulet ad precata, sicuti . . .[1] legittime[4] eleccionis maturitate vos singulariter in peculiarem sibi sponsum preeligendo . . .[1] sic vestris utinam quam cicius graciosis per presenciam frui mereatur amplexibus, que sic tandem desolacionis exuta vestibus et meroris, tanquam Hester delicata novis induta glorie, sub remige tanto ampliorem inveniat in conspectu illustrissimi principis graciam: ne honor ejus, plus solito insidiancium latratorum indies infestatus insultibus, in concessis succumbat libertatibus; sed vestre proteccionis graciose munimine pariter et prudencia animosius roboretur, ut sic liberius quieciusque suos lactet ab uberibus filios, quos a cunabulis diutine[5] educans ad honoris culmina non desinit promovere. Afflictorum Consolator Deus dominacionis vestre dies felicitet, et optati regiminis inflammet ad affectum. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo mensis Marcii die primo.* Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Fol. 69 b.

171.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury.

We should have written to congratulate you on your translation to the see of Canterbury, immediately on receiving the news, but feared to trespass upon your time, knowing how deeply you must have been engaged in affairs both temporal and spiritual; now, however, that we understand you to be more at leisure, we desire to express our thankfulness that, by this your exaltation, the Church has obtained a wise, just, and learned prelate, and the University at once a great distinction and a powerful protector; and we humbly beg that in all our business you will show your gracious favour towards us.

1443. Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Johanni, permissione Divina Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati ac apostolice sedis legato, nostro domino graciosissimo.

[1] These parts are illegible. [2] *est quod* erased in MS. [3] *intuito* MS. [4] *ligittime* ib. [5] *dietini* ib.

Reverencias omnimodas cum obediencia filiali debita tanto patri, et vestre prelacie sidus luciferum ad nostre relevacionis tutelam longeva per tempora piis radiis rutilare. Etsi jamdudum statuerimus sublimitati vestre, reverendissime in Christo pater, ob novos honores atque translacionem vestram ad Cantuariensem sedem, simul atque nobis res cognita fuerit, litteris nostris congratulari—nam vestram eminenciam post alios dignitatum titulos ad hunc amplissimum statum et excelsam sedem provehi toti Universitati Oxoniensi usque adeo gratissimum fuit, ut singulare sibi munus existimaret a celesti majestate tributum; —considerantes tamen maximas curas, publicasque et pastorales occupaciones, quibus tum vestra paternitas distringeretur, decrevimus pocius hujusmodi observancie et humanitatis officium aliquantum tempus intermittere, quam graves et arduas sollicitudines vestras nostris eciam intempestivis litteris onerare. Jam vero, cum vos a publicis muneribus aliquantulum acquievisse cognovimus, affeccionem et observanciam nostram, tanquam oportuniori tempore captato, his litteris congratulariis nunciantes congratulamur ex intimis animis excellencie vestre. Nam ex hac preclara sublimacione vestra non solum ecclesia Anglicana doctum, justum et sapientem primatem, sed Universitas eciam Oxoniensis studii ornamentum quoddam et decus, atque adversus morsus, calumnias, et contumelias obtrectatorum tutum presidium nobis accepisse videtur. Delatus enim est vobis excelsus honor, dignus auctoritate, sapiencia et virtute vestra; ubi et lumen sciencie et virtutis vestre atque laus et gloria Oxoniensis studii elucere possit; ubi nos et in secundis rebus fiducia, et in adversis perfugium et solacium habebimus. Quare et superne majestati gracias agimus, et nobis vehementer gaudemus. Postremo vestre amplitudini obnixe et cum omni observancia obsecramus, ut, cum res et tempus postulet, in omnibus rebus, causis et negociis nostris vestre dominacionis humanitatem, graciam et benevolenciam nobis impendere et exhibere dignemini. Valeat feliciter paternitas vestra in magnam etatem, reverendissime in Christo pater. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Marcii die septimo decimo.* Vestre paternitatis reverendissime humillima oratrix Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Testimonial letters for Masters Henry Moorcote and Richard Pees.

MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo quarto, mensis Aprilis die tercio, sigillate erant due littere testimoniales pro magistris Henrico Moorcote et Ricardo Pees; sub forma communi, que ponitur folio vicesimo quarto. 1444.

Fol. 70 a. **Acquittance of Master Wm. Kynwolmersche, for fine paid by him.**

1444. MEMORANDUM, quod sexto decimo die Aprilis, in convocacione magistrorum regencium et non-regencium, sigillata est acquietancia magistro Willelmo Kynwolmersche, sub hac forma, '*de centum solidis solutis Universitati, eo quod non incepit infra annum post suam licenciacionem in sacra theologia.*'

Testimonial letter for Master John Brystwyk.

1444. MEMORANDUM, quod eodem sexto decimo die Aprilis, in eadem convocacione, sigillata est littera testimonialis magistro Johanni Brystwyk, sub forma que ponitur folio vicesimo quarto.

172[1].

To the Duke of Gloucester.

To gaze at and admire your beautiful gifts is easy, but to render due thanks and praise is, in this world, impossible. The very fountain of eloquence, which flows from the imperishable works of Cicero and Demosthenes, brought to light again by your exertions, would be exhausted in the effort: your reward must be hereafter. Thus, insufficient to do justice to your divine merit, we fly for refuge to your indulgence, and beg you to accept instead thereof our gratitude and an everlasting remembrance of your name. For, though the fame of your liberality were known in the uttermost regions of the earth, and though all educated men should desire your favour, and vie with each other in devoting their labours to the increase of your honour, yet here in Oxford must ever be the home of your glory: and while distant rays may reach the students of every clime, here we enjoy, so to speak, the very beams of the sun itself. We hope that you will not think we have been remiss in delaying for a time to write to you: we have done so because we heard that you were shortly coming to this neighbourhood, and we hoped to have an opportunity of thanking you in person: suspect not the reality of our gratitude: would that you could lay upon us some command, which would prove the sincerity of our devotion!

1444. QUANTAS gracias et laudes nos celsitudini tue, princeps illustrissime, debeamus, tibi pro luce sapiencie tue longe facilius est estimare quam nobis perscribere. Nam magnificenciam illorum pulcherrimorum munerum et immortalium donorum, quibus Universitatem studii

[1] There is no address or date to this epistle.

Oxoniensis liberalissime confoveris et ornaris, suspicere, admirari totisque mentibus colere et semper venerari possumus; sed justis graciis prosequi, aut dignis laudibus ornare, nunquam. Vincit enim omnem dicendi copiam, omne agendarum graciarum genus illa eximia virtus, liberalitas et magnificencia tua. Unde fit ut lacteus ille fons eloquencie, tuis istic amplissimis et eternis donis affluenter exundans (quem tua excellencia mira quadam derivacione de Italia, de Grecia aliisque disjunctissimis terris in Angliam traduxit, ita ut preclara illa opera ac elegantissima precepta Ciceronis et Demosthenis, quasi a tenebris evocata, jam tua ope et virtute in luce et in oculis omnium versentur), in tuis tamen laudibus atque graciis tue serenitati agendis, tanquam virtutum et beneficiorum tuorum magnitudine exhaustus, arescat. Quo fit ut omnes intelligere possimus illas singulares virtutes tuas et immortalia dona humano ore satis digne laudari non posse; et quasi terrenas gracias et humanas laudes dedignancia celeste premium et supernam retribucionem expectare. Itaque cum gracias tuis divinis meritis dignas nec verbis quidem agere valeamus, ad tuam benignitatem, cujus pre te fers inter ceteras virtutes insigne nomen, confugimus; vehementer obsecrantes ut gratos, memores, et obsequentissimos animos nostros sempiternamque apud nos nominis tui gloriam loco graciarum suscipias. Nam etsi clarissima humanitatis, liberalitatis, ceterarumque regiarum virtutum fama ad extremas orbis terrarum partes penetravit, et ad omnes, qui optima et liberalissima sapiencie studia colant, percrebuerit; ita ut omnes eruditi viri non solum amorem, graciam et benevolenciam tuam certatim appetant, verum eciam labores et opera sua nomini tuo consecrare, atque excellencium ingeniorum monumenta tuo splendore illustrare contendant; hac tamen munificencia et liberalitate, qua in nos usus sis, factum est ut hec illustris nominis tui gloria non incertis sedibus vagari, sed proprium domicilium in Universitate studii Oxoniensis habere videatur, ubi laudis insignia et monumenta nominis tui in perpetuum requiescant. Proinde cum tua sublimitas huic seculo et etati nostre lumen attulisse omnibus litteratis videatur, nos ceteris omnibus longe feliciores sumus: quod ipsi radiis tantum, longe tamen lateque diffusis, nos vero ipso sole, ut ita dixerimus, oblectemur. Jam vero amplitudinem tuam obsecramus, princeps humanissime, diuturnum silencium litterarum nostrarum atque hujusmodi officii intermissionem egre non feras, nec negligencie aut ingratitudini, sed observancie pocius ac cuidam opinioni nostre attribuas. Nam ubi nuper magnificum illud et illustre librorum munus ad alia **Fol. 70 b.** singularia et amplissima dona tua accumulatum acceperimus, fama apud nos fuit te prope diem palacia quedam et predia tua, ad oblectacionem animi laxamentumque curarum hac ingrediente estate visere

et obire, atque eciam non longe a nobis iter facere statuisse. Unde nos magna leticia affecti, non litteris aut mutis apicibus absentes, sed vive vocis organo presentes, tuumque vultum et spirancia ora intuentes, laudes et gracias divinis his meritis tuis dignas pro viribus agere et celebrare apud tuam serenitatem decrevimus. Verum cum aliter res eveniat, ad litteras, quasi expectata opportunitate defraudati, recurrimus, humillime supplicantes ut, si prius in hujusmodi observancie officio tardi, nunc in mora purganda seduli ac celeres judicemur. Nam ubi pietatem, fidem, aut aliquod observancie officium requiras, si hi, quos tantis beneficiis ornaris, in te colendo aut observando languerent? Deleatur igitur ex animo omnis negligencie, oblivionis aut ingratitudinis suspicio; et nos totos ex debito tuos tueque voluntati deditos et obsequentissimos judices. Quod utinam aliquid, quod equum et tua sublimitate dignum foret, nobis pro honore, gloria, et felici statu tuo agendum injungeres, ubi vicissim nostrum obsequium ac observancia erga excellenciam tuam reluceret. Nihil enim optabilius aut jocundius nobis obtingere posset. Valeatque feliciter celsitudo tua, illustrissime et ornatissime princeps; quam in omnibus rebus dirigat equissimus bonorum omnium Retributor. Tui humiles et perpetui oratores Cancellarius et Universitas studii Oxoniensis, &c.

Testimonial letter for Master John Albon.

1444. MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo quarto, et quarto die Julii sigillata fuit littera testimonialis, sub forma communi, pro Willelmo Albon, doctore in decretis, ordinis S. Benedicti.

173.

To the Abbots and Priors of the Order of S. Benedict, assembled in Chapter at Northampton.

The first instalment of your liberal donation for the erection of the school of theology has been duly received; and we desire to express our heartfelt thanks. The building progresses, but our funds are quite exhausted. We hope, therefore, that you will not attribute it to any distrust that we now send one of our Proctors, Master J. Trystrop, requesting you to pay into his hands, if convenient to you, the remainder of the sum promised.

1444. REVERENDIS in Christo patribus, Abbatibus et Prioribus S. Benedicti, in capitulo generali Northamtonie congregatis.

Magnum quidem et memorabile donum, reverendi in Christo patres, quandam videlicet pecuniarum summam, ad ereccionem fabricamque

novarum scolarum, dudum apud nos communi consilio inchoatam, auctoritate et assensu tocius ordinis vestri capituli, jam pridem apud Northamptoniam congregati, tribuit nobis religio vestra; ob quam eximiam et divinam liberalitatem ingentes paternitatibus vestris et amplissimas gracias agimus. Verum cum summe nobis promisse unam superioribus diebus partem recepimus, alteraque porcio jam reliqua supersit; mittimus inpresenciarum ad reverendas paternitates vestras confratrem nostrum magistrum Johannem Trystrop, alterum procuratorem Universitatis nostre; ut ipse, si vobis quoque id gratum fuerit, residuos nummos nomine nostro consequatur. Eam namque gravitatem, religionem et auctoritatem vestram agnoscimus, ut nec de benevolencia vestra nec de fide neque de constancia desperemus. Porro opus ceptum, quoad facultas nostra ferat, maturare et ad optatam consummacionem deducere summo studio et desiderio conamur; sed rei magnitudo thesaurum pene omnem et erarium nostrum exhausit. Unde, quo necessitas nobis urgencior immineat[1], eo munificencia vestra grata opportunior et longe jocundior erit.

174.

A false report officially contradicted. Fol. 71 a.

A report having been circulated that our late proctor, master J. Tristrope, hindered and finally prevented the graduation of master J. Paknam; we hereby declare the said report to be devoid of any foundation. Master Paknam was not in any way impeded, or put to expense or trouble (except such as are required by our statutes) in taking any degree to which his standing entitled him: nor has Master Tristrope in this, or any other case, exceeded the duties of his office.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere 1445.
pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Quia ex certa relacione quorumdam jam nuper audivimus, quod quidam, in certis Anglie partibus falsis ac injustis accusacionibus fidem adhibentes, predicant et imponunt quod venerabilis vir et dilectus confrater noster, magister Johannes Tristrop, jam nuper nostre Universitatis alter procurator, quandam venerabilem virum, Johannem Paknam, utriusque juris bachillarium, ab optati sui gradus suscepcione diu retardavit, et finaliter impedivit; in predicti Johannis prejudicium non modicum et gravamen; Hinc nos, falsis ac injustis hujuscemodi

[1] *imminiat* MS.

accusacionibus obviare volentes, has nostras per litteras attestamur prefatum venerabilem virum, Johannem Paknam, a sui gradus suscepcione nullatenus fuisse impeditum; sed, absque quacumque inquietacione seu bonorum suorum amissione, omnem gradum, pro tunc sibi congruentem, ad placitum suum honorifice recepisse. Et constat nobis dilectum confratrem nostrum, magistrum Johannem Tristrope, contra prefatum Johannem, sicut nec contra quemlibet alium, in isto negocio nihil egisse, indiscrete attemptasse seu quomodolibet exegisse; nisi prout ex statutis, consuetudinibus, privilegiis et libertatibus nostre Universitatis—ad que illesa servanda prefatus confrater noster speciale prestitit juramentum—facere potuit et debuit congruenter. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune nostre Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, decimo nono die mensis Julii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo quinto*[1].

175.

Fol. 71 b.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

By your magnificent donation, from having been well-nigh without books, this University has become richer than any other in these treasures; so that we scarcely know where to bestow them. Whatever has been written that is worth reading is now accessible here to all comers. Here the Greek and Latin tongues in their original majesty, for so many centuries consigned to oblivion, by your instrumentality see the light again; and here too are being placed most elegant works dedicated, as no doubt many others will hereafter be, to your name. Hither flock from every land men of industry unwearied and of acutest intellect. We wish you could behold with what greediness and thirst for knowledge the troops of students hang over your books; and hear how they encourage and stimulate each other. The gift is a noble action of a noble mind; and no prince, however great his learning, his love of literature, his patronage of scholars, could have devised one more in harmony with his own cultured taste. Our words are too feeble to express our thanks, and we wish for a permanent memorial of your generosity. If we could place your books in a suitable chamber, separate from others, the crowding of the readers might be avoided; and for this purpose we would offer the new school now in building. The situation is retired and quiet, and we venture to suggest that the new library should be called by your name: Will your boundless charity excuse this presumptuous suggestion?

[1] This testimonial is misplaced, it should, as the date shows, come on fol. 73 b before the testimonial letter for Nicholas Cargut.

SERENISSIMO atque illustrissimo principi, Humfrido, duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, magno camerario Anglie et domino nostro graciosissimo. 1445.

Cum dudum, illustrissime princeps et magnificentissime cleri patrone, deditissimam serenitati vestre ancillam matrem nostram amplissimis, immortalibus divinisque muneribus splendide ornaveritis, rem omni laude dignissimam credimus vos egisse: rem profecto qua nihil illustrius, nihil eterna retribucione dignius, nihil denique in orbe terrarum precelsius quisquam hominum efficere potuisset. Quid enim preclarius, quid nobilius quam Universitatem Oxoniensem, jam ope vestra omnium florentissimam, paulo ante librorum valde inopem, cumulatissimis insignissimorum voluminum pulcherrimisque donis non mediocriter divitem effecisse, sed longe ditissimam; adeo ut publicum ejus erarium vix continere possit divicias? Adeo certe ut nihil fere usquam leccione dignum fuerit, cujus illic propatulus non datur intuitus. Hic enim prisca Greci Latinique sermonis majestas, quam incuria hominum infinitis pene seculis obscuravit, patrocinio vestro in lucem traducta reflorescit. Istic insuper elegantissima opera nomini vestro dedicata reponuntur; quibus haud dubium non pauca superaddet posteritas. Istic homines industria agiles, ingeniis acerrimi ab omni orbis circumferencia velut ad centrum confluunt; ut ab uberrimis fontibus hauriant doctrinam quam universis diffundant: Ex quo fit ut eterna tam magnifice liberalitatis monumenta omnium nacionum gratulacionibus consecrentur. O si celsitudini vestre interesse daretur! Ut cerneretis quam sicienter, quam avide studencium coortes libris vestris certatim incumbunt; apud se dicunt: '*Non est segnitiei locus; maximi adsunt hospites, et maximo curandi impendio dormire totis noctibus non sinunt, vigilandum est, laborandum est.*' Nemo illos sine admiracione respicit, cunctis una voce testantibus se nunquam libros tanta claritate conspicuos, tanta gravitate refertos vidisse. Itaque clarissimum animum non minus clarum munus decuit. Quid enim doctissimus atque eloquentissimus princeps, quid ingeniorum cultor sollertissimus, quid indulgentissimus studii amator quam speciosissima ingenii atque doctrine ornamenta congruencius daret? Rarissima certe munera jocundissimaque; et, si verum rei precium exquiratur, inestimabilia: pro quibus si impares gracias agamus, beneficiorum magnitudini tribuas: agimus tamen quam possumus magnas. Sed, ut ait Cicero, majores habemus, quibus exprimendis et accuraciore stilo et feliciore opus esset eloquio. Ad quod unum porro sufficimus, Fol. 72 a.
peculiariter in eterna memoria recolendi estis. Et ut per hoc, si quid maximo addi possit, tante munificencie gloria fiat illustrior, optamus sacram et celebrem scienciarum sedem reparari; ubi honorificencius

et ad utilitatem studencium multo commodius libri vestri ab aliis segregati collocentur. Jam enim, si quis, ut fit, uni libro inhereat, aliis studere volentibus, ad tres vel quatuor, pro vicinitate colligacionis, precludit accessum. Itaque locus huic rei nobis maxime videtur idoneus, ubi venerabilis vir et Cancellarius noster, semper reipublice amantissimus, magister Thomas Chace, spectabilem novarum scolarum fabricam, ad cetera sue virtutis testimonia, insigni mensura [1] ab humo erexit: quam nos cito, quoad exigua suppetebat facultas, promovimus. Hic locus, propterea quod a strepitu seculari remocior, bibliothece admodum videtur conveniens: cujus fundacionis titulum, si magnitudini vestre acceptabile fuerit, cum omni devocione offerimus: presumentes quod ignea virtus et accensa caritas vestra frenum nesciat, cum alias accusabilis fuerit, hic excusabilis redditur illa presumpcio. Elegantissima scribendi brevitas vestra ne longius vagemur admonet; subsistimus igitur, Deum orantes cunctosque celicolas, ut serenitatem vestram [2], tam sanguinis quam ingenii nobilitate ornatam, Dominus [3] jubeat in statu felicissimo florere. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quartodecimo die Julii.* Devotissima et perpetua oratrix vestra Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

A copy of 'Phaedo' lent to the Duke of Gloucester.

1445. MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo quinto, mensis Januarii die tercio decimo, deliberatus erat domino duci Gloucestrie liber Platonis '*in Phedone*,' sub forma mutui, secundo folio '*ex quo cogitare*,' in convocacione magistrorum regencium et non-regencium.

Fol. 72 b.

The University undertakes to indemnify Master John Trysthorp the proctor.

His special zeal for our honour, faithful discharge of duty, and unusual labours in preserving peace and resisting infringement of our privileges moving us thereto, we hereby undertake to bear Master John Trysthorp harmless, at our expense, in all suits which may arise out of his conduct during his office as Proctor.

1445. MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo

[1] *mensuram* MS. [2] After *vestram* occurs a blot or smear and a vacant place on the MS. and then the word *genia*, whatever it may mean; probably redundant, as '*ingenii*' is only separated from it by three words. [3] The vacant place above noted extends downwards into the line below, after the word I have rendered *Dominus*. This may perhaps be *Domini*, if so, a word is gone of course.

quadragesimo quinto[1], mensis Aprilis die nono, sigillata erat quedam obligacio concernens personam magistri Johannis Trysthorp, pro tunc procuratoris dicte Universitatis, sub hac forma: Universis Christi fidelibus, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore: Quia venerabilis vir magister Johannes Trysthorp, confrater noster et nostre Universitatis providus alter procurator, pacis et honoris ejusdem Universitatis specialis zelator, bene et fideliter executus est ea que ad suum officium hujusmodi spectant; laboribus non parcendo insolentibus et pacem dicte Universitatis infringentibus resistendo, propter quietem studii ejusdem consequendam; unde dicta Universitas, diligenciam ejus considerans et curam circa pacem et quietem studii sui, obligat se per presentes dictum magistrum Johannem defendere, et servare indemnem sumptibus et expensis ipsius Universitatis erga quoscunque, in causis singulis dictum suum officium tangentibus, pro tempore quo hujusmodi officium occupavit. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Aprilis die nono, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo quinto, regnique regis Henrici sexti post conquestum vicesimo tercio.*

176.

To the King.

That the welfare of the realm is your care we know from the kindness you have ever shown towards this University. Our words but feebly express our gratitude for your goodness to us, and, through us, to the Church at large. Master Gascoigne, late our Chancellor, has resigned that office from insufficient means, we believe, to support the dignity with credit. No one has ever discharged the duties of Chancellor so efficiently; under his rule vice has been repressed, virtue and learning encouraged, peace fostered. We greatly desire that he would consent to be again our Chancellor; and hope, that by thus committing his cause to you, we may find that help which we are ourselves unable to afford.

Serenissimo principi et domino, domino nostro metuendissimo, Henrico, Dei gracia Anglie et Francie regi illustrissimo. 1445.

Insignissimo et Christianissimo principi, Anglie et Francie illustrissimo regi, cum omni devocione observancias et honores: Serenissime princeps, cum sacram majestatem vestram semper reipublice amantissimam per singula gestorum insignia facile intelleximus, maxime

[1] *quarto* MS., but see *ad fin.*

tamen ex eo quod Universitatem vestram Oxoniensem, non solum antiquis privilegiis et libertatibus inconcussis, verum eciam novis eximie magnificencie beneficiis atque pristine dignitatis amplificacione decoravit. Quod utique summis laudibus celebrandum et omni graciarum accione ab universis Christianis prosequendum est, sed et a nobis peculiari quodam modo, qui tam magnifice liberalitatis proxime sumus participes. Itaque cumulatissimas graciarum acciones redderemus, si ad exprimendam devocionem, quam mente gerimus, verba suppeterent. O preclara beneficia, quibus non modo glorie vestre quin eciam fidei Christiane et communi hominum saluti consulitis! Vera utique et non refragabilis veterum sentencia est artes honore nutriri. Quid igitur, quum studiosos ita regius favor applaudit, nonne ad imitacionem virtutis ceteri accenduntur? Ac illa, ubicumque gencium imperet, beatam necesse est efficiat rempublicam. Quod in venerabili et probatissime virtutis viro, magistro Thoma Gascoygne, nostro jamdudum rectore et Cancellario, satis sumus experti; qui tempore sui felicis regiminis tam fortiter quam perseveranter, tam prudenter quam salubriter omnia rexit atque moderatus est, ut nec
Fol. 73 a. majori studio neque dignioribus ex causis quemquam commendare debeamus. Illum itaque sciencia eruditum, sapiencia gravem, circumspeccione providum, et sanctimonia vite insignem, celsitudini vestre commendamus; vehementer obsecrantes quatinus pie consideracionis oculos in has commendacionis nostre litteras retorquere dignemini. Obtestamur insuper, et iterum atque iterum obsecramus, ut sibi, qui jam pridem Cancellariatus sui officium in manus nostras sponte et libere resignavit, quamprimum et quam humanissime reverendos affatus litterarum vestrarum destinetis; quo earumdem contemplacione illud resumet. Est etenim, ut omnes et singuli indubitata fide tenemus, Universitati huic vestre rector summopere necessarius: sub cujus dudum regimine omnia letis auspiciis processerunt. Nunquam vitia artius premebantur, nunquam virtutes aut studia litterarum et sapiencie studiosius colebantur, nunquam pacis tranquillitas gracius fovebatur. Hunc ideo talem, tam eruditum et tam in omni virtutis genere prestantem, qui tot tantisque rebus nobis usui et ornamento fuit, tanquam de republica optime meritum omnes una voce, nec ullo reclamante, iterato elegimus. Recusat onus subire: rei familiaris penuriam suspicamur in causa, ob quam forsan sibi visum est cum honorificencia commode illud administrare non posse. Defectui nimirum huic compatimur sed subvenire non possumus; ideoque in celsam et sublimem potenciam vestram causam commendamus. Postremo deprecamur ut annos vite vestre proroget in longam etatem cum gloria, et demum ab hoc solio mortali ad eternum transferat Is, apud quem fons vite est, Rex

regum et Dominus dominorum. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Aprilis die duodevicesimo.* Humillima oratrix vestra Universitas Oxonie.

Testimonial letter for Master Nicholas Gosse.

MEMORANDUM, quod quinto die Julii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo quinto, sigillata erat littera testimonialis pro magistro Nicholao Gosse, sub eadem forma que habetur folio octavo registri. 1445.

Acquittance of Nicholas Cargut, on payment of his fine. Fol. 73 b.

MEMORANDUM, quod decimo die Julii, in convocacione magistrorum regencium et non-regencium sigillata erat acquietancia Nicholao Cargut, in legibus licenciato, de centum solidis, eo quod non incepit infra annum post suam licenciacionem in legibus. 1445.

Testimonial letter for Master John Trysthorpe.

MEMORANDUM, quod decimo nono die mensis Julii, in convocacione magistrorum regencium et non-regencium, sigillata erat littera testimonialis sub communi forma pro magistro Johanne Trysthorpe, cum hoc addito, '*nuper alterius procuratoris.*' 1445.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

MEMORANDUM, quod in congregacione regencium fuit acquietancia sigillata sub hac forma: Noverint universi per presentes, nos, magistrum Robertum Burton, Cancellarium natum Universitatis Oxoniensis, et magistros Willelmum Mortone et Thomam Coplestone, predicte Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse die confeccionis presencium de Abbate et conventu de Enisham, in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos sterlingorum; in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo primo die mensis Novembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti vicesimo quarto*[1]. 1445.

Testimonial letter for Master John Salforde.

MEMORANDUM, quod quarto die mensis Decembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo quinto, sigillata erat una littera testimonialis pro magistro Johanne Salforde, doctore sacre theologie, sub forma que ponitur in folio octavo hujus libri. 1445.

[1] This seems to be a mistake for *quinto.*

Testimonial letter for Master Gilbert Haydok.

1445. MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo tercio die mensis Decembris, in convocacione magistrorum regencium et non-regencium, sigillata erat littera testimonialis pro magistro Gilberto Haydok, sub hac forma: Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere, pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore: Inter cetera humanitatis officia justicie procul dubio consentaneum, et nobis, qui virtutis et sciencie studia profitemur, peculiari quodam modo debitum est, viros morum gravitate et sciencia preditos testimonio digne laudis juvare. Enimvero dum bene meritis laus tribuitur, ceteris ad capessendam virtutis viam spes paratur. Hec et ejuscemodi ante oculos nostre consideracionis statuentes, per has litteras attestamur, quod predictus nobis in Christo confrater, magister Gilbertus Haydok, vir quidem conversacionis venustate conspicuus, ingenio agilis et imprimis eruditus, adeo studiose, sapienter et summa cum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, ut cunctis bene beateque vivendi spectaculum exibendo ad magistratus apicem in facultate arcium provehi meritus sit; et que ad tanti gradus sollemnitatem attinebant honorifice cuncta explevit. Ut igitur, hujus testificacionis gracia, omnium quorum penes se interest propensiorem consequatur favorem, has litteras communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo quinto, et mensis Decembris die vicesimo tercio.*

Fol. 74 a.

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo tercio die mensis Decembris, sigillata erat una acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Hoseney, pro viginti sex solidis octo denariis sub forma communi, &c.

Testimonial letter for Master John Moddrey.

1445. MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo tercio die mensis Februarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo quinto, sigillata fuit una littera testimonialis pro magistro Johanne Moddrey, arcium magistro, sub forma que ponitur folio vicesimo sexto hujus registri.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1445. MEMORANDUM, quod octavo die Marcii sigillata erat una acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, pro quadraginta duobus solidis,

de anno regni regis Henrici sexti vicesimo quarto, post conquestum, sub forma que ponitur folio tricesimo quarto.

Testimonial letter for Master Thomas Waltham.

LITTERA testimonialis magistri Thome Waltham, sacre theologie doctoris, sub antiqua forma cum ista clausula speciali 'formamque suam integram regencie in sacra theologia in eadem Universitate laudabiliter exercuit et complevit.' *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, quinto die Julii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo sexto*[1]. 1446.

177.

To the King. Fol. 74 b.

Your illustrious actions fill our hearts with admiration and love for the throne, but most conspicuous of them all is that favour, with which you regard the two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the lights of the nation and of all the world. This your policy adds not only to your glory, but to the welfare of the realm. For both the words of the wise and the records of the past prove that those states have flourished wherein learning has been fostered. We beg therefore that you will grant us possession of the books promised to us by the Duke of Gloucester, when present in our house of Congregation; which gift he confirmed shortly before his death.

[2] SERENISSIMO atque illustrissimo principi, Anglie et Francie insignissimo regi.

Serenissime atque illustrissime princeps, post deditissimas ex integritate cordium observancias ac subjecciones humillimas. Dum preclara spectatissimaque in toto orbe terrarum regie magnificencie gesta nobiscum recordacione continua dulcique memoria recensemus, admirabili stupore ducimur et ultra quam credi potest vehementi dileccione allecti sumus, ut regiam majestatem super omnia mundi ex intimis diligendam atque recolendam arbitremur[3], ac ut ejus saluti nedum corpora sed eciam animam dedicemus. Inter cetera tamen que admiramur illud singulari laude prelucet, quod in duo inclitissimi hujus regni et tocius orbis luminaria, Oxoniam et Cantebrigiam 1447.

[1] Here follow, *as to date*, letters 179, 180, fol. 75 b, both written before the death of H., Duke of Gloucester. [2] The date of this and the following letter is written by a contemporary hand at the top of the folio, which is quite unusual in this MS. [3] *arbitramur* MS.

Universitates, tam propensi favoris, tante benignitatis et tam exuberantis gracie oleum, quo foveantur, assidue semper infunditis; ut jam absque defeccione perpetuam et prope inextinguibilem ortodoxe fidei et salutaris doctrine sue lucem, non modo per hujus terre ambitum, sed ab hinc ad distantissimas regiones, omnibus Christianis diffundant. Et quid gloriosius, quid ad regni salutem stabilius, quid eterna retribucione dignius excogitari potest, quam in omnem clerum suum et sanctam matrem ecclesiam nobilissimi ac graciosissimi regis animum tanto amoris ardore accendi, quanto de summis et maximis principibus, cunctis retro seculis, paucos admodum legimus aut audivimus inflammatos? Profecto hoc magnum, hoc maximum, Christianissime rex, perpetue[1] felicitatis presagium et glorie regni vestri: qua in re haud dubium est perpendisse optime regiam magnificenciam illud Ciceronis eloquium, '*parvi sunt foris arma nisi est domi consilium*,' consilium, inquam, sapientum. Consideratis etenim omnibus, per que principum florent fructificantque officia, et regnorum gloria sublimata videatur, solerti adhibita circumspeccione, precipuum sapiencie cultoribus et litterarum studio deditis prepotentis ac magnifice dominacionis benevolenciam et supportacionem exhiberi. Etenim vero si veteres a dierum primordiis revolvuntur historie, ubicunque studia scienciarum sub clemencia et tuicione principum floruerint, illic simul imperium floruisse compertum est. Rogamus igitur, et cum omni humillitate ac devocione regiam amplitudinem obsecramus, quatenus celeberrime Universitati vestre Oxoniensi, ut ejus in sempiternum non extinguatur lucerna, soliti favoris et gracie indeficiens lumen celsitudo regia exhibere dignetur; libros illos nobis, tam numerose plebi studencium, de regali munificencia largiendo, quos magnificus princeps Humfridus dux Gloucestrie, dum in humanis agebat, nobis devotissimis oratoribus vestris in nostre congregacionis domo, magno et spectabili tunc presente cetu doctorum et magistrorum, libere ac gratanter donavit; et eandem donacionem[2], ut fideli nobis relacione intelligi datum est, non longe eciam ante obitum confirmavit. Nullum enim majus beneficium majestas regia nobis facere posset, quam ut libros illos, quibus plurimum indigemus, in nostram consolacionem maximam reciperemus. Pro qua re, et ex integro iterum atque iterum, majestatem regiam humillime obsecramus: quam, ad cleri et regni stabilimentum, Deus omnipotens conservet incolumem longiora per tempora. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo, &c.* Devotissima et perpetua oratrix Universitas vestra Oxoniensis.

[1] *ede*, added over the line MS.; what is intended is not clear, probably *perpetuande*. [2] *et ut* MS.

178.

To Master John Somersett. Fol. 75 a.

Of all your remarkable qualities we congratulate you chiefly on your power of withdrawing your mind from public cares and applying it to literary studies. We regard your call to a position wherein your wise counsel is so useful, as nothing less than providential, and entreat you to use your influence with the King, in obtaining for us possession of the books given us by the Duke of Gloucester by word of mouth; and never revoked before his death.

CLARISSIMO ac spectatissimo viro et doctori famosissimo, magistro Johanni Somersett, fautori et amatori nostro precipuo. 1447.

Dum exuberancia vestrarum virtutum insignia non parva cum admiracione animo recolligimus, doctor famosissime, in id apprime summa congraculacione afficimur, vos, virum in rei quidem publice consultacione occupatissimum, honestissimis tamen scienciarum litteris incumbere; et inter curarum sollicitudines solitudinem quandam ducere. Verum si publica pro administracione bene meritis mortalitatis[1] fama, et definitus, teste Cicerone, apud superos locus debeatur; hec eo vobis, doctor, diviniore quodam modo accrescere arbitrandum est, quo sacratum sibi[2] ocium cum operosis negociis sociali quodam vicissitudine ita conficitis, ut post anxiosos sudores hoc illi ad quietis solacium, illa vero isti ad gloriam sint et tutamen. Itaque non sine divina quadam sorte actum esse putavimus, lactentem vos jam ac . . .[3] apud nos trivialibus intendentem, veluti e matris cunabulis, tante celsitudinis prudencie tandem non ab re assistere evocatum; ubi et studiosi quique et sapiencie dediti tutorem vos consultorem[4] atque coadjutorem paratissimum invenerint. Unde et nos primum maximas gracias et habemus et agimus benevolencie vestre, quia tantam nunciis nostris humanitatem pro felici negociorum nostrorum expedicione nuperrime ostendistis, ut gratum desiderii nostri nuncium reportarent[5]. Rogamus deinde atque summo opere desideramus, ut, cum specialis ille noster benefactor Umfridus, nuper dux Gloucestrie, libros suos, quos studio dignos arbitratus est, nobis viva voce concesserit, atque pia hac in voluntate, prout fidedignorum testimonio didiscimus, ad mortem continue perduraret; sic apud inclitissimum, Christianissimum et nobis graciosissimum regem nostrum diligencie vestre operam senciamus;

[1] *immortalitatis?* [2] *tibi?* [3] The word here is unintelligible in MS.; probably it is intended for *parvulum.* [4] *consultorum* MS. [5] *reportarunt* ib.

ut quod pia nobis voluntate indultum est, non minori sit pietate executum. Hortatu equidem et consilio vestro expedite magis quod volumus advenire nobis posse non ambigimus; quo pacto et rem memoratu satis dignam agetis, atque nos eterno et divino quodam afficietis beneficio. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, octavo die mensis Aprilis.* Vestra dilectrix et amatrix Universitas Oxoniensis.

IHS ⁘ MARIA ⁘ CATERINA.

179.

Fol. 75 b.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

No words could discharge our debt of gratitude and praise, though from every quarter of the world all the most eloquent of mankind should be gathered to perform the task. Your munificence cannot be rewarded in this life, but will be so hereafter. If others, to whom you are known only by your fame, owe you thanks, what must not be our debt, who have in person experienced such generosity? While the course of nature is unchangeable our hearts will never cease to treasure your memory, and we will give all our powers of body and soul to serve you. We hope for your continued favour, for it is the sole foundation of our prosperity, and the books you have given us, both by their contents and beauty, are the admiration of all.

1446. Serenissimo atque ornatissimo principi, Humfrido, duci Gloucestrie, comiti Pembrochie, magno camerario Anglie et domino nostro graciosissimo.

Quanta laudum preconia, quot et que amplissimarum graciarum acciones celsitudini vestre, observandissime princeps, nos humiles et obsequentissimi ejusdem oratores perpetuo immolare debeamus, non facile quidem fuerit eloquentissimis, ex omni orbis circumferencia ad hoc in unum velut centrum adunatis, exprimere. Tam exuberans quippe in nos et tam immensa est bonitas magnificencie vestre, quod omne laudis genus, omne agendarum graciarum munus exsuperat; et, quasi terrenam commendacionem dedignata, celeste premium et supernam retribucionem expectat. Quod quanquam ita sit, haud ideo humana cessant officia; quum universos populos, cunctas gentes extremaque maria laudes, etsi clarissimis meritis impares, celebrare certissimum est. At sane, dum ii, ad quos vel sola virtutis fama pertingit, ad nominis vestri gloriam laudes accumulant, quanto nos accuraciore studio fervencioreque zelo eam predicare, extollere et summopere magnificare convenit, qui virtute ipsa beneficencie ipsoque

librorum divino et inestimabili munere donati, magnifice ornati, splendide et amplissime aucti sumus. Certe, ut verbis utamur poete, apud nos '*Dum juga montis aper, fluvios dum piscis amabit, dum thimo pascentur apes, dum rore cichade, semper honos, nomen vestrum laudesque manebunt.*' Et cum hoc ad condignum, pro magnitudine debiti quo tenemur, non sufficiat, nos totos insuper loco supplementi offerimus, ac non modo corpora nostra sed immortales animas nostras vestris dedicamus obsequiis: amplitudinem vestram, humanissime princeps, vehementer eciam atque eciam obsecrantes, ut res nostras solito pietatis favore aspiciat. Hunc ipsum enim favorem, tanquam unicam nostre salutis basim, statuimus, cujus firma[1] et inflexibili supportacione jam singula studiorum gignasia in pacis tranquillitate letis procedunt auspiciis; et pro magna parte universi libris, precipue contentorum splendore ornatu et majestate allecti, ardentissimo studio gregatim incumbunt. Ex quo futurum ut inter illos cotidie magis ac magis illustres glorie vestre precones effulgeant; que ut per eos sic vigeat, et in eternitatem propagetur ac floreat, summo studio, sempiterna benevolencia atque perpetuis oracionibus divinam majestatem nos obsecrare pollicemur. Devotissima et perpetua oratrix vestra Universitas studii Oxonie.

180.

To the Duke of Gloucester.

When we remember the benefits, unheard of in former ages, which your never failing generosity has poured out upon us; and how you have protected and cherished us as a father his only daughter, we are at a loss to express our respect, honour, and love of your name. Your administration of affairs of state, your wisdom, your talents, your exalted character are the theme of universal admiration and praise; and your safety and welfare the constant burden of our prayers. Hitherto every one preaching within the University has been bound by his oath to commemorate your benefactions; to this we now add a further statute, to the effect that the same obligation shall apply to all sermons delivered in places of importance elsewhere; and that on every such occasion special prayers shall be offered by name for you. We have elected Master Gilbert Kymer, your clerk, to be our Chancellor; in order that he may suggest to us any procedure that may be agreeable to you. May your life be long here, and everlasting hereafter!

ILLUSTRISSIMO principi, Humfrido, Gloucestrie duci, comiti Pembrochie ac magno camerario Anglie, et domino nostro graciosissimo. 1446.

[1] *firmo* MS.

Serenissime princeps, dum cedulo ante oculos exacte consideracionis tractamus inaudita cunctis retro seculis beneficia, quibus magnifice donati fuimus; atque eciam adeo constantem, integram et uniformem vestre dominacionis graciam, que nullius beneficencie quantalibet magnitudine saciari, nec ullis suasionibus abalienari potuerit, quin tota in Universitatem Oxoniensem pleno cornu exuberet; ut unicam, ut ancillam, imo pocius ut filiam, ut columbam, et oratricem perpetuam foveat, complectatur et diligat;—sane dum hec nobiscum sepe ac multum discutimus, in quanta veneracione, cultu et dileccione inclitissimi nominis vestri decus a nobis perpetuo celebrari debeat, nec verbis quidem persolvere nec mente satis excogitare sufficimus. Versatur in ore cujuslibet celeberrimum nomen Humfridi. Quidam[1] magnificenciam ducis admirantur et predicant; alii administracionem[2] reipublice, sapiencie et consultacionis gravitatem preconizant; alii ingenii claritudinem atque in omni genere litterarum diligenciam extollunt; singulique singulares et excelsas virtutes magnificant: omnes denique pro vita et statu et incolumitate vestra crebras et assiduas supplicaciones superne majestati sine intermissione offerunt. Itaque, ad ampliorem tante magnificencie gloriam (si quid maxime superaddi possit), statutum inter nos est et execucione firmatum, ut, sicut ab olim et continue, publicos infra Universitatem sermones dicturi peculiare quoddam et precipuum memoriale nominis vestri agere in fide prestita obligati sunt, ita jam foris eodem functuri officio, in locis saltem regni famosissimis, nominatim et expresse celsitudinem vestram recensere, et oracionum suffragiis commendare teneantur[3]. Sic[4], perceleberrimum[5] hoc memoriale vigebit in evum; dignissimas quoque laudes nulla quidem etas unquam conticescet, quinimo magis ac magis florescent, dum vel solus in Universitate supersit, qui litteras legere aut intelligere sciverit, ut nova inde monumenta conficiat. Obsecramus igitur devote et obtestamur humillime amplitudinem vestram, humanissime princeps, ut nobis continuo soliti favoris et gracie indeficiens lumen exhibeat. Ac si quicquam beneplacito seu acceptacione dignum possibilitati nostre subsit, imponite, statuite et jubete: obsequentissimis animis parere ad omnia presto ac parati sumus. Nec ab re ideo gravem ac provide sencientem virum, magistrum Gilbertum Kymer,
Fol. 76 a. celsitudinis vestre clericum, sub cujus olim regimine letis auspiciis res nostre processerant, jam denuo in Cancellarium et rectorem nostrum elegimus; ut docere, suggerere[6] et informare possit quid in gerendis rebus nostris ubique gratissimum fiat serenitati vestre. Quam in longam florentem ac desideratam etatem sic Omnipotens dirigat per

[1] *Quidem* MS. [2] *administratione* ib. [3] *tenentur* ib. [4] *Sic sic* ib.
[5] *perceliberrimum* ib. [6] *suggere* ib.

graciam in via, ut demum eternam perducat ad gloriam in patria. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, septimo die Februarii.* Humillima et devotissima oratrix vestra Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Testimonial letter for Master Richard Ayschetone, Abbot of Peterborough.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Quia altissime veritatis conspectui libamina credimus offerre, cum virtutibus precellenti fidele peribemus testimonium digne laudis; Hinc nos super laudabili vita et honeste conversacionis fragrancia venerabilis patris magistri Ricardi Ayschetone, sacre theologie doctoris, Abbatis monasterii de burgo S. Petri, omnes quorum interest cerciorare volentes, has nostras per litteras attestamur, quod predicti patris laudabilibus meritis et sciencia, per scolasticos labores et studia tanta precessit experiencia, unde odorifera sui nominis fama, quam apud nos in honoris apicem pretulerunt virtuose sue accionis preconia, latere non valuit, sed eminentem super columpnam erigi digna ceteris se prebuit vitale imitacionis exemplum et populo lucem magnam: adeo quod, quamdiu Universitatem sua decoraverat presencia, omnium morum matura prefulgens gravitate magnum sibi honorem immaculati nominis titulo vendicavit. Ne igitur calumpniancium invidia, seu insidiancium hora maliciose captata [nomen [1]] ejus venerabile alicui possit revocari [2] in dubium, eidem venerabili, super laudabili suo statu pariter et honestate in dicta Universitate, ut [3] omnibus plenius innotescat, has litteras nostras testimoniales communi nostre Universitatis predicte [sigillo munitas confecimus] [4]. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Februarii die quarto, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo sexto.* 1446.

Testimonial letter for Master Geoffrey Herford. 1447.

MAGISTER Galfridus Herford, doctor sacre theologie, ordinis predicatorum, habuit litteram testimonialem sub forma communi, cum ista clausula speciali 'de complecione laudabili sue regencie' *anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo septimo, mensis Aprilis die undevicesimo.*

[1] *nomen* omitted in MS. [2] *annotari* MS. [3] *ut* omitted in MS.
[4] *sigillo mun. conf.*; these three words are wholly omitted in MS.

181.

To Master William Waynflete, provost of Eton College.

Fol. 77 a.

Your kindness and tried affection for us embolden us to ask that you will use your powerful influence with the King, to obtain for us possession of the books promised in congregation here by word of mouth, and often afterwards to our messengers, before his decease by the Duke of Gloucester. We are sure the King is naturally disposed to every good work, but by your persuasion we doubt not he will be more so. By granting this our prayer you will repay the debt you owe to your mother the University; which brought you forth into the world of knowledge, nursed you with the most loving care, and fed you with the choicest food of science up to man's estate.

1447. Magistro Willelmo Waynflete, preposito collegii regalis de Eton, Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

Dileccionis vicissitudinem, graciarum acciones et honorem. Tantum nobis animi, tantum fiducie ac spei prestat insignis humanitas et probata dileccio tua, magister carissime, ut non modo propriam opem, qua semper egemus, verum insuper, cum res id exigat, generose probitatis tue curam, studium atque operam apud alios pro nobis eciam in periculo gratanter impendas. Credimus enim semper tibi ante oculos esse quanto tenearis amore in matrem, que te spirituali conceptum utere in lucem cognicionis eduxit, et donec in virilis animi robur cresceres, quo jam excellis, preciosissimis dapibus, indulgentissimo favore, omnium scienciarum alimentis enutrivit. Cum igitur plurimum apud regiam celsitudinem possis, de quo vehementer omnes congaudemus, hortamur in Domino, rogamus et obtestamur virtutem tuam, ut tam benignissime dominacionis graciam pro nobis interpellare digneris de libris obtinendis, quos dudum magnificus ille princeps, dux Gloucestrie, in nostre congregacionis domo adunatis doctoribus et magistris publica voce concessit, et sepenumero postea nunciis nostris privatim, ac paulo ante mortem, ut ex fide digna relacione accepimus, eandem donacionem confirmavit. Alia quoque multa promisit, de quibus tacere prestiterit: hoc unum tamen industrie tue ac fidei, in qua firmissimam spem locavimus, elaborandum commendamus. Nam, etsi nobilissimus ille princeps et rex noster graciosissimus a natura fuerit ad omne bonum inclinatissimus, non dubitamus tamen quin tuis et aliorum bonorum suasionibus fiet paracior. Postremo in iis, que illa ex parte dicentur, audienciam digneris impendere creditivam et favorem. Vale; et a nobis te diligi constantissime tene. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, &c.*

182.

To the Marquess of Suffolk[1].

RYGH heigh and myghty and owr fulwyrschipful lord, wt als entier hert as we kan thynk we recommend us humbly to yowr ryght wyrschipful estat, wt þe gostly suffrages of owr prayers; devoutly besekyng almyghty God to preserve þe sam in worschip and prosperite longe to endur, for his mercy. And for somuche þt owr most[2] .... and soveryng lord þe Kyng late dide wryte to us, þt he wold schew to us his Universite of Oxon tendre favore wt his goode grace, ffor þe whuche, wt alle þe devocions þt God wil minstre to us, daily we pray to Him diligently for þe most noble estate and prosperite of owr sayde soverayne lord. ffurthirmor we beseche lowly to yowr highnesse, þt ȝe wold be god lord and gracius protectur to us yowr bedmen of þe sayde Universite of Oxon, and specially for þe honour of God almyghty and mayntenance of alle cristen fayth, wyrschip of owr sayd Soveryng lord, profute of þis realme and tranquillite of the sayd Universite; commendyng us ȝowr desyride pleseris as to yowr humble bedemen, þt hertly prayth to alle myghty God to have ȝow in his kepyng. *Wrytyn in þe semble hows of Oxenford þe xiii day of marche.* ȝowr fuldevoute oratrice þe Universite of the study of Oxenford. 1447.

183[3].

Fol. 77 b.

The mother may justly expect assistance from her son; we therefore beg you to give her your aid, by using your influence with the King and others, that we may be given possession of the books promised by the Duke of Gloucester, but which were not at that time in his own hands. Master Edmonde, our messenger, is the bearer of our letters to the King, the Marquess, and others.

MATRIS erga filium vetus extat consuetudo, si quid sibi prodesse putet, nec quod ipsa sola adquirere, tunc ipsius maxime postulare consilium, quem noverit magis ad eam rem peragendam fore idoneum. Fraternitati igitur vestre, quem semper eum, ut gratissimum filium erga matrem decuit, ad Universitatem nostram animum benevolentissimum habuisse comperimus, tanquam ad eum, in quo spes non parva nostra sita sit, mittimus in presenti; ut eam, quam in matrem debitis, benevolenciam experiamur. Quoniam itaque matris nostre amator 1447.

[1] There is no address to this letter. Probably it was addressed to the Marquess of Suffolk. Cf. Ep. 186. [2] The space of one or two words blank in the MS.
[3] No address to this letter, but probably it is to Dr. J. Somerset.

precipuus, magnificus princeps dominus Humfridus, dux nuper Gloucestrie, cum paucis jam lapsis annis Universitate nostra in convocacione magna doctorum et magistrorum presens esset, libros singulos, quos studio dignos arbitratus est, nobis liberaliter donavit per liberacionem certorum librorum, non penes, in aliorum possessione; et eandem, ut certa relacione accepimus, non longe ejus ante mortem, donacionem iterum confirmavit; fraternitatem obnixe petimus, quatenus penes majestatem regiam, et alibi gratos et benevolos, vestros dignemini labores apponere, ut illos libros nobis pia et magnifica principis largicione donatos obtinere possimus. Res enim, ut aiunt, in portu est; si, uti confidimus, cum aliis benevolis ac fautoribus nostris eciam favor atque benevolencia vestra non deficiant. Quamobrem et inpresenciarum transmittimus vobis[1] confratrem nostrum, magistrum Thomam Edmonde, nuncium nostrum specialem, cum apicibus nostris ad metuendissimum dominum nostrum regem, dominum Marchionem, ac alios; cui eciam fidem prebere vestra fraternitas dignetur indubiam: quam diu feliciter Omnipotens conservet incolumem. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, octavo die mensis Aprilis.* Vestra dilectrix et oratrix Universitas Oxonie.

184.

To the Marquess of Suffolk.

1447. To þe ryght hygh and myghty prince, oure most singuler good lord and protectour, þe Marquois of Suthfolk.

Ryght hyght and myghty prince, owr most singuler good lord and protectour, we recommend us unto ȝowr gud lordschip in þe most lowly wyse, thankyng ȝow, as hertly as we can or may, for þe gret and graciose confort þt ȝe send to us be owr messinger late beyng wt ȝow; and for þe gret favour and tendirnesse that ȝe have had at al tyms, and now in special, unto þe spede of owr maters; besechyng ȝou of ȝowr gude ad and longe continuance in þe sam; prayng ȝow forthirmor to be good lord and special mene unto owr most soveryng and graciuse lord the Kyng; þt in als muche as þe duk of Glowcestre, now late passid to God, a lytil be for his deth grantyd to owr Universite of Oxenford all his buks of study, also odyr boks longyng to scole mater, lyk as we be informyd be feyth and credible personys, and morover grantyd þe sam wt his onne mowgthe, her in a tym of a convocation in our semble howse, be for diverse doctors and maysters and other notable, many mo graduat men beyng in his presance, we

[1] *nobis et confratrem* MS.

myght rekever and have theys sayd boks; þe wyche was to us most special and singuler tresour; consaynyng[1] þe gret wel disposid multitude of scolars and the gret penury of boks þt ben amang us. And we schall pray God hertly for yowr gud & nobil estat: the wyche God longe maynteyne yn prosperite and gud helth of soule and body. *Wrytyn at Oxenford in owr semble howse þe viii day of Aprile.* ȝowr poor oratrice, Universite of Oxenford.

185.

To Lord Say.

Fol. 78 a.

To the Right noble & oure singuler good lord, the Lord Say, Chamberlayn unto oure soveraigne lord the Kynge. 1447.

Ryght noble and our ryght singler lord, we recommend us un to ȝowr good lordschip in lowly wyse, wyche Almyghty God preserve & governe longe in welth and prosperite; Besechyng ȝowr benyng favoure to oure Universite, and þt ȝe lyk to be good menes to owr soveryng lord the Kyng for þe buks wyche owr gud lord, þe duk of Gloucestre, be for grawntyd to owr sayd Universite, wan he was last in the same Universite, and also, as we be sufficiently informyd be wyrschipful & famous men, a lytyl be for he passyd to God he confermyd the same: Consideryng, gracius lord, the gret multitud of scolers and þe penury of bokes in þe sayd Universite, and þt many of yowr nobyl lynage and kynnesmen hav studyed & schal her after in þe saide Universite, to our gret worschip and profete of al þe realm. And we schall pray God for yow, for yowr good mediation and instance un to owr soveryng lor þe Kyng in the saide mater: wyche longe mayntene ȝow in good helth of soule & body. *Writin at Oxon in oure sembly hows, þe vi day of April.* ȝowr poor oratrice, the Universite of Oxon.

186.

To the Marquess of Suffolk.

To our ryght gracious and noble lord, Lord William, þe markis of Suffolk. 1447.

Ryght noble lord, as devotly as we can we commend us unto ȝowr goode lordschipe wt the gostly suffrages of oure prayers; praying Allmyghty God to preserve ȝow in welth and prosperite. And for als muche þt oure soveryng lord þe Kyng did late wryte to us þt he wold

[1] Or perhaps *consayvyng* MS.

schew to us and his Universite of Oxinford tendre favoure and his gude grace; Warfor we prayth God dilygently, and wt all þe devocions þt God will ministre to us, for his gud estate & prosperite. fforthurmore we beseche ȝour good lordschip to be good lord and protectour to us & to our sayd Universite, for þe good rest and tranquillite of þe study, to þe honoure of God, mayntenance of cristyn fayth, wyrschip and profet of þe realme of Engelond. And we and oure successours of þe say Universite schal pray for ȝow for evermor. *Writ at Oxon in oure congregation, xiiii day of Marche.* ȝowr special oratours, Chancellar proctours regentes & non-regentes of the Universite of Oxon.

Fol. 78 b.

To the Archbishop of York.

1447. MEMORANDUM, quod quinto die Februarii, scripta est littera ad dominum Cardinalem, episcopum Eboracensem, sub ista forma.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et domine, magnificencie vestre humillima recommendacione devote premissa: Apud antiquissimos probate auctoritatis viros nihil quispiam communi utilitati[1]. . . .

Acquittances of Eynsham and Oseney Abbeys.

1447. MEMORANDUM, quod tercio et vicesimo die Februarii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum sexto et vicesimo, sigillavimus acquietanciam cujusdam annue pensionis octo et sexaginta solidorum, debite Universitati Oxoniensi de Abbate et conventu de Eynesham.

Memorandum, quod quarto et vicesimo die mensis Februarii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum sexto et vicesimo, sigillavimus acquietanciam cujusdam annue pensionis sex et viginti solidorum, debite Universitati Oxoniensi de Abbate et conventu de Oseney.

Memorandum, quod undetricesimo die mensis Marcii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum septimo et vicesimo, sigillate fuerunt due acquietancie sigillo communi Universitatis; una Abbati et conventui de Oseney, et alia Abbati et conventui de Enesham, pro quibusdam pensionibus annuis per eosdem Universitati dicte debitis; secundum formam prescriptam folio quintodecimo.

[1] Here the MS. breaks off abruptly.

187.

To the Chancellor, Master Kymer. Fol. 79 a.

The successful accomplishment of your journey is a source of thankfulness to us. Master Maningham has fully described your efforts, the exertion of your interest, your care, industry and anxiety in our behalf. A trusty messenger will serve our purpose better than a long letter, and will express our desires more straightforwardly. Trust him as you would ourselves.

SCRIPTA est littera domino Cancellario, undevicesimo die mensis Februarii, sub hac forma. 1447.

Honorificencie vestre debitas reverencias et honores cum humillima subjeccione filiali. Magna animi gratulacione felicem transitum vestrum nostris pro rebus expediendis suscepimus, pater benignissime, quo nostram rempublicam maximis incrementis ad auctum rei palam intelligimus. Quo etenim pacto apud nos in dies singulos vestrorum meritorum cultus augescit vehementer experimur. Accepimus, probissime pater, a confratre nostro, magistro J. Maningham [1], clarissime quanta favoris adminicula, quantos labores, curas, industrias, studia, cogitacionesque et omnes animi vires nostris pro negociis bene gerendis vestri perbeata et gratissima benignitas apponit: unde vos [2] veram et rectam gloriam magni quoque nostri desiderii perdulce solamen haberi feceritis. Quam ob rem ab ymis nostri cordium radicibus profluentes graciarum acciones precellenti dignitati vestre offerimus multiformes. Proinde longis quoniam oracionibus multaque circuicione in scriptis [3] uti haud opus est, cum in excipiendis mandatis profisiscentis persona [4] ingenio racione et fidelitate sufficit; igitur quod [5] vestri reverencia scitu dignum arbitramur, sine sermonis nostri excursu, plenius per prefatum magistrum, nostro pro nuncio speciali deputatum, significabimus. Cui sinceram fidem, rectam opinionem et firmam credulitatem, velut nobis, in singulis ab eo dicendis ex parte nostra conferre dignemini. Quid multa? Valete et vivite feliciter per multas etates, pater optime. *Raptim scriptum apud Oxon, in nostre congregacionis domo, undevicesimo die Februarii, &c.* Cetus unanimis magistrorum regencium Universitatis Oxonie. Manyngham.

[1] *Manigham* MS. [2] *nos* ib. [3] The word in the MS. is *scpritis*. [4] The scribe has made some confusion or omitted something, but his writing is here singularly clear. [5] The MS. appears to have *e* before *vestri*.

188.

To the King.

We have received with all respect your letters requiring us to readmit to residence among us Master Morgan Philipp, who was banished for his great misconduct; or to show cause why we regard him with such disfavour. We would gladly allow him to return, if we could do so with safety, but his life has been such that his presence was a constant peril to our liberties and privileges, which he endeavoured to violate both by his own actions and by abetting others. Pious and peaceable masters he has prosecuted upon false charges, and with insolence and contumacious conduct refused to submit to the penance we inflicted. In short, his whole life here has been a continual strife and discord. Such a wicked and litigious man we deem unfit to reside in a quiet and studious society, and indeed neither does the Church nor God himself receive into favour an impenitent sinner. We have long waited expecting his submission, before writing this letter, and we doubt not that you will even thank us for what we have done; for it is certain that if we overlooked his offences many others would be found to imitate him.

1447. Serenissimo et metuendissimo domino nostro, Domino Henrico, Dei gracia Anglie et Francie regi illustrissimo, scriptum est quarto die Maii.

Serenissime et Christianissime princeps, tocius matris nostre ecclesie singularissime auctor et protector, subjecciones, honores et gracias cum omni devocione et humillitate. Omnimoda veneracione, ut equum est, vestre serenitatis binas[1] litteras suscepimus, metuendissime princeps, quibus Morganum Philipp, propter magnam improbitatem ejus, singularem immodestiam et manifestissimam contumaciam apud nos, a vestra Universitate Oxoniensi legitime bannitum, nobis in graciam suscipere atque nobiscum cohabitandi prestare licenciam vestri celsitudinem desiderare intelligimus; aut claram et probabilem vestre serenitati racionem ostendere, quare eum favore et gracia minime tueremur. Ipsi enimvero toto mentis affectu, vestre contemplacione regie majestatis, commanendi libertatem nobiscum preberemus, si nos et Universitatem nostram predictam eo redeunte[2] futuros incholumes putaremus; verum adeo scelerate sui vitam instituit, quod in perturbacione pacis et rerum publicarum eversione non modo iniquus consul sed precipuus actor erat; nullam ad perperam agendum habens verecundiam; laude dignas consuetudines libertates et privilegia, a

[1] Or perhaps *vivas* MS.

[2] *rediunte* ib.

vobis et preclarissimis progenitoribus vestris nobis graciose et di- **Fol. 79 b.**
vinitus indulta, tanquam communi utilitati nostre acerrimus hostis, in sui juramenti non modicam lesionem gnominiose violavit. Pios quidem ac innocentes magistros falsis indictamentis nequiter et injuriose vexavit: que culpa certo apud nos haud vulgaris, neque actitata est. Salubrem sibi pro commissis noxis solida et matura discrecione injunctam penitenciam, nobis, legibus et judiciis nostris nullatenus morem gerens, superbe, arroganter et contumaciter refutavit. Vitam suam, ut summatim feramus, tam impudenter actam, iniquam, immodestam, ita parari existimamus, ut nihil certo pretensum ducat quam jurgium et discordiam. Quare, serenissime et graciosissime princeps, tam improbum et litigiosum virum, in quo tantum temeritatis et contumacie est, nulla studiosa et honesta societate commorari dignum arbitramur. Sancta etenim mater ecclesia, cujus vestri Universitas antedicta tanquam regulatrix et instructrix suis multiphariis salutaribusque disciplinis extat, impenitentem nusquam recipit ad graciam: nec Deus ipse talem potestatem reliquit in terris nec sibi retinuit, ut impenitentem quemquam absolvat. Unde, metuendissime princeps, predictum Morganum, sui pro nequiciis merito bannitum et nunquam se nobis quoquo modo submittentem, sed in sua pocius iniqua et perversa contumacia indies perseverantem, Christi vestigia et sancte matris ecclesie imitantes, ut tenemur, ad graciam habitandi nobiscum, ut solebat, hucusque non duximus acceptandum: ac ejus comparenciam et obedienciam quotidie expectantes, usque nunc has litteras nostras vestre celsitudini distulimus offerendas. Quo facto vestri sublimitatem offensam fieri non speramus, sed plurimas eo magis e vestri magnificencia grates adepturi. Re enim vera, clementissime princeps, si his maleficiis indultum fieret, sepe multos ad maleficenciam alacriores, atque plurimos ejusdem audacie futuros emulos, paulo post clare ex verisimili intueremur; quod inclitissimam majestatem vestram magnopere nolle firmiter estimamus. Scimus profecto quod benignissima dominacio vestra ad salutem et incholumitatem Universitatis vestre predicte pias semper benevolencie acies ac providentissime consideracionis oculos solet retorquere. Unde sapiencie et serenitati vestre grates eternas et immortales agimus, supplicantes ac devote et humillime implorantes majestatem vestram placido[1] vultu et serena fronte has nostre excusacionis litteras suscipere; que si parum vehementes aut non satis digne prudentissime **Fol. 80 a.**
celsitudini vestre videantur, vestrum tunc judicium quoquomodo faciendum assequemur; exorantes accuratissime et humillime obsecrantes quod solite benevolencie humanitatisque vestre perseveranciam

[1] *placito* MS.

nobis vestra celsitudo concedat. Floreat prospere in multas etates gloria, virtus et magnificencia vestra, semper victoria et triumpho. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo, Maii die tercio.* Vestri humillimi oratores, Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium vestre Universitatis Oxoniensis.

189.

Commemoration of Cardinal Beaufort.

The executors of Cardinal Beaufort, in the distribution of money by him left for pious works, have given to this University five hundred marks, for the completion of the new school of theology; desiring from us, in return for this charitable gift, a spiritual recompense. We therefore, for ourselves and our successors, hereby grant to the said Cardinal, that he shall be partaker in all prayers and sacrifices of the mass offered in this University; and that the anniversary of his death, with mass for the repose of his soul, shall be observed every year. Our chaplain also, making his circuit to ask the prayers of the scholars for benefactors, shall mention the name of the said Cardinal, and likewise in every mass celebrated by him; and every graduate, before his sermons on solemn occasions, shall invite the prayers of the congregation for the said Cardinal. Moreover, we admit into the number of our benefactors, and to a participation in all spiritual recompenses paid to them, the aforesaid executors of his will.

1448. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Gilbertus Kymer, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, cetusque magistrorum unanimis in eadem salutem in Eo, qui est omnium vera salus. Cum reverendissimus in Christo pater et dominus, dominus Johannes, miseracione divina sacrosancte Romane ecclesie tituli Sancte Balbine presbiter cardinalis, Archiepiscopus Eboracensis; nobilis et prepotens dominus Edmundus, dux Somersetie et marchio Dorsetie; et alii electi et eximie discrecionis viri, Ricardus, Prior prioratus de Wytham in Selwode, Carthusiani ordinis magister; Stephanus Wyltone, Archidiaconus Wyntonie; Ricardus Wallere; Willelmus Mareys; Willelmus Toly, et Willelmus Porte; simul cum eis executores testamenti recolende semper memorie reverendissimi in Christo patris et domini, domini Henrici, nuper sacrosancte Romane ecclesie tituli Sancti Eusebii presbyteri Cardinalis, vulgariter nuncupati '*de Anglia*,' Wyntoniensis episcopi, inter communitates, ecclesias cathedrales, monasteria, piaque loca dicti regni, que devota circumspectaque largicione bonorum dicti testatoris honoraverunt, nostram Universitatem antedictam singulari quadam et precipua

bonorum disposicioni sue, ut prefertur, commissorum, collacione **Fol. 80 b.**
duxerint respiciendum; eidem graciose conferendo quingentas marcas, ad complendam edificacionem quarumdam scolarum in ea a nobis inceptarum, nunquam nostris propriis verisimiliter consummandarum facultatibus; qua quidem liberalitatis et munificencie gracia erga nos et eandem nostram Universitatem intelligimus prefatos executores usos extitisse, sub obtentu remuneracionis spiritualis, memorato perpetuaque memoria digno reverendissimo patri et domino, domino Henrico Cardinali predicto et ejus anime, per hoc a nobis optinende; Nos, liberalitati munificencie et beneficiis nobis sic, ut prefertur, exhibitis et impensis grata vicissitudine pro viribus respondere cupientes, prefatorum executorum in hac parte votis et desideriis benevola promptitudine non immerito intendendum duximus et annuendum; volentes et concedentes, pro nobis et successoribus nostris, memoratum reverendissimum in Christo patrem et dominum, dominum Henricum, Cardinalem Anglie, participem fieri, fore et esse debere oracionum et suffragiorum, ac generaliter omnium et singulorum sacrificiorum spiritualium et pietatis operum in dicta nostra Universitate divine majestatis aspectibus quomodolibet offerendorum: ac, preter et ultra hoc, concedimus atque promittimus, in fide qua Deo et sancte matri ecclesie et Universitati nostre astringimur, quod, absque dolo, fraude, decepcione, negligencia, defectu sive fallacia, nos et successores nostri, singulis annis in perpetuum, solemniter et celebriter observabimus, et observabunt, diem anniversarium obitus dicti reverendissimi patris et domini, domini Henrici Cardinalis, undecimo die Aprilis, cum missa '*de requiem*,' et exequiis mortuorum die immediate precedente; nisi et quatenus hujusmodi undecimus dies in cessacione magistrorum a lectura circa Pascha contigerit; quo casu promittimus, et, ut supra, nos et successores nostros supradictos firmiter obligamus, quod predictum diem anniversarium obitus ipsius reverendissimi patris et domini, domini Henrici Cardinalis, die Martis proximo sequente resumpcionem proximam lecture magistrorum post octavas Pasche, cum missa solemni '*de requiem*,' et exequiis mortuorum die immediate precedente, sic, ut prefertur, observabimus et faciemus observari. Necnon quod capellanus Universitatis nostre predicte, in oracionibus pro benefactoribus ejusdem Universitatis scolatim dicendis, prefatum patrem et dominum, dominum Henricum Cardinalem, singulis annis **Fol. 81 a.**
nominatim recommendabit. Et, ultra hoc, idem capellanus Universitatis nostre pro tempore existens, in singulis missis suis, infra Universitatem dicendis, mensionem sui nominis expressam in certis collectis, videlicet '*Deus cui proprium*' et aliis pertinentibus, in perpetuum faciet specialem. Insuper promittimus, quod quilibet Univer-

sitatis nostre graduatus, amodo predicaturus, in suffragiis consuetis suorum solempnium sermonum, sui auditorii populum ad devote supplicandum pro eodem patre et domino, domino Henrico Cardinali sepedicto, ita specialiter, sicut pro aliquo nostre dicte Universitatis benefactore, publice in perpetuum exhortabitur. Ceterum benignissimos et preclaros dominos antedictos, ac alios cum eis prefati reverendissimi patris et domini, domini Henrici Cardinalis, testamenti executores, propter eorum beneficenciam nobis, ut predicitur, pie, liberaliter et graciose ostensam, inter precipuos nostre Universitatis benefactores admittimus; eisdem concedentes, quod omnium suffragiorum, piorum et bonorum operum quorumcunque, que pro benefactoribus predicte Universitatis in posterum fient, semper participes habebuntur. Unde, ut hec omnia et singula premissa, per nos concessa, a nobis et successoribus nostris inviolabiliter in perpetuum observentur, in forma premissa, auctoritate congregacionis regencium et non-regencium nostre Universitatis, ordinavimus et conclusimus, quod predicte nostre concessionis tenor de verbo in verbum in registris et archivis nostris scribetur et perpetuo remanebit; et ut statutum et pro statuto dicte Universitatis nostre infringibiliter in eternum observabitur. In quorum omnium et singulorum fidem et testimonium has litteras nostras indentatas et tripartitas fieri fecimus patentes, quarum due partes ad disposicionem executorum predictorum, et tercia vero pars in archivis dicte Universitatis perpetuo remanebunt: necnon sigillum commune Universitatis nostre predicte presentibus apposuimus. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quinto die Marcii.*

Testimonial letter for Master David Carun.

1448 LITTERA testimonialis fratris David Carun[1], doctoris in sacra theologia, qui suam regenciam in eadem facultate in Universitate ista exercuit laudabiliter et complevit, sigillata erat in domo congregacionis, sub communi forma, *anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo octavo, vicesimo primo die Junii.*

190.

Fol. 81 b.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Frequent experience proves how great is your goodness to us, and readiness to maintain our peace, honour, and advantage. We run to you therefore in every difficulty. One Master Thomas Chapleyn is prosecuted in your court in a certain case respecting a mortuary fee.

[1] Or *Carum* MS.

This is a clear violation of that privilege whereby it is provided that no spiritual cause, terminable within the University, shall be taken to any court outside the same. And if it were permitted in the present instance, the case of Master Chapleyn would hereafter be drawn into a precedent, and the authority of our Chancellor wholly destroyed. We pray you therefore to remit the cause to us for trial here.

SCRIPTA erat hec littera domino Cantuariensi pro non trahendo causam ad extra. 1448.

Reverendissime in Christo pater et graciose domine, vestre benignissime paternitati humillima recommendacione cum obediencia filiali devote premissa. Palam nos docet frequens experiencia—quam[1] pro nostre Universitatis quietis, honoris et [studii[2]] commodi supportacione vestra sepenumero prenobilis benignitas graciose impendit—preclare mentis vestre bonam affeccionem erga nos et nostram rempublicam perdiu extitisse; unde humillimas quas valemus graciarum acciones graciose dominacioni vestre cum prostrato spiritu duximus immolandas. Cum etenim in perturbacionibus aut incommodis nostra jaceat respublica, ad reverendissimam paternitatem vestram, ceu ad speratissimum nostre Universitatis patronum, nobis pro succursu celeriter itum est. Speramus atqui, adversum singulas[3] fortuitas querelas vel affectatas insidias, nos generosam magnanimitatem vestram, ne quod predicte Universitati male valetudini sit, precipue defensuram: cum revera nemo ex omni etate superest, cui in conservacione nostre reipublice confirmaciorem spem aut cerciorem fidem geramus. Modo, singularissime domine, ad venerabilis curie vestre audienciam quidam[4] magister, Thomas Chapleyn, arcium magister dicteque Universitatis regens necessarius, super quadam pretensa causa mortuarii respondenda accersitur. Quod profecto haud parve in nostrorum[5] privilegiorum libertatum et laude-dignarum consuetudinum dispendia verteretur; cum sane virtute eorumdem nulla spiritualis causa, infra Universitatem terminabilis, ad forinsecum judicium attrahenda sit; nisi prius, secundum prefate Universitatis jura, ad intra fuerit judicialiter ventulata. Que equidem privilegia libertates et digne consuetudines vestram dominacionem claro meminisse existimamus. Si enimvero huic rei locum prebere fas est, equali jure cuicumque pari cedendum foret; quo pacto tota Cancellarii nostri potestas in causis ab eo audiendis facile frustraretur. Igitur, reverendissime pater, cum prefata causa infra Universitatem nostram

[1] This clause apparently is misplaced and should be transposed with that which follows it. [2] *studii* dotted below the line as redundant, MS. [3] A word here is illegible. [4] *cuidam* MS. [5] *in nostrorum* repeated in MS.

hucusque in judicio nullatenus versata fuerit, ad benignissimam dominacionem vestram confugientes, obsecramus unanimiter et devote, quatenus equitate et justicia, quibus vestra semper nobilitas clara est, nostra privilegia, libertates et consuetudines laudabiles graciose conservando, ipsam causam ad dictam Universitatem nostram vestra benignissima paternitas remittere dignetur, ibi coram Cancellario nostro finaliter terminandam. Quam in multas etates, ad nostra munimina et solamina, preservet incolumem Auctor et Princeps eterne equitatis et justicie Deus. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo, secundo die Novembris.* Reverendissime paternitatis vestre humillimi oratores, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem. Manyngham.

Fol. 82 a.

191 [1].

In our great difficulties we send Master Henry Meoles, our proctor, who will explain our circumstances, and we beg you to take such effectual measures for our welfare as shall seem expedient.

1448. Honorabilis domine, debita salutacione premissa. Scimus profecto vestram maturitatem nostris in rebus promovendis habundanter facere posse quod nos non unquam, aut multo absque sudore, perficere non valemus. Multis igitur difficultatibus circumventi ad vestri probitatem dilectum nobis in Christo confratrem, magistrum Henricum Meoles, Universitatis nostre procuratorem, mittimus pro succursu: cui res et vota nostra vestre circumspeccioni singula dedimus explicare. Accuratissime vestri prestanciam deprecantes, quatenus ea, que vobis ex parte Universitatis nostre et communi studencium utilitate aperire debet, sicut nos et nostra respublica vobis cordi sumus, effectualiter dignemini expedire. Qua in re, ut speramus, Christo gratissimum [2] et nobis precipue amacionis et eterne memorie signum facietis. Atque pro vobis quodcunque officium, cum ad hoc interpellati fuerimus, pro viribus exsequemur. Valete, et vivite feliciter per multas etates nostri memor. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo tercio die Marcii.*

[1] There is no address to this letter. [2] *gratissimam* MS.

192.

To all dignitaries of the Church, nobles, and discreet persons generally of the dioceses of Lincoln, Coventry, and Lichfield.

Be it hereby known that we have appointed Masters John Moderay and Richard Osburne, jointly and severally, to be our agents and special messengers, and we beg that you will, each and all, kindly receive and assist them in transacting the business they have in charge; and be sure we shall be ready, on occasion, to requite your good offices.

VENERABILIBUS nobilibus et discretis viris Lincolniensis, Coventrensis et Lichfeldensis diocesium, presentes litteras visuris vel audituris, Gilbertus Kymere, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Noverit universitas vestra nos, de fidelitatibus, prudencia et circumspeccione dilectorum nobis in Christo, magistri Johannis Moderay et Ricardi Osburne, fiduciam in Domino gerentes pleniorem, in singulis negociis nostris in dictis diocesibus promovendis, eis conjunctim et divisim committimus vices nostras et plenam in Domino potestatem; ipsosque magistrum Johannem et Ricardum, ac quemlibet eorum per se et in solidum, nos in premissis et premissa tangentibus procuratores, actores, factores, negociorum nostrorum gestores, ac nuncios speciales deputamus, facimus et constituimus per presentes. Memoratos igitur nuncios nostros probitatibus et circumspeccionibus vestris, ac vestrum cuilibet, pleno recommendamus affectu: attente rogantes quatenus ipsos, ob contemplacionem et reverenciam dicte Universitatis, et benigniter acceptare ac eis in nostris negociis peragendis fidem indubiam, opem, industriam et favorem feliciter adhibentes, eosdem, quantum poteritis, dignemini expedire. Quo facto rem vobis meritoriam et nobis gratissimam facietis; scientes firmiter quod nos ad referendum vicissitudinem, cum ad hoc interpellati fuerimus, studiose et diligenter pares esse curabimus. In cujus rei testimonium has litteras communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie quarto die Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo nono.* **1449.**

193.

To the Pope. **Fol. 82 b.**

In commendation of Master William Babyngtone, Abbot of Bury S. Edmunds, president of the Benedictine order in England and proctor of our lord the King in the Roman curia; a grave and learned man,

whose life at Oxford was an example to all; who, after many years spent in lecturing on Canon Law, received the degree of doctor in the same; and whose promotion to the dignity he now enjoys is a special instance of divine providence.

1449. Sanctissimo in Christo patri et domino nostro, Domino Nicholao, divina providencia sacrosancte Romane et universalis ecclesie summo pontifici.

Sanctissime et beatissime pater, humillima recommendacione filiali premissa cum devotissimis terre osculis ante pedes[1]. Quoniam apud sanctitatem vestram, clementissime pater, viros sciencia et virtutibus ornatos uberiorem graciam ac liberaliorem beneficenciam beatitudinis vestre consecutos esse perspicimus, pro tali viro, qui vita integra, multis itemque litterarum ornamentis, honoris, fortune et ingenii[2] preditus est, scribere non veremur. Nos itaque, cognoscentes religiosam et honestam conversacionem, sciencie et prudencie industriam, ac aliarum plurimarum virtutum[3], et morum probitatem, quibus preclarus et egregius vir, magister Willelmus Babyngtone, decretorum doctor, Abbas monasterii Beati Edmundi de Bury, ordinis S. Benedicti, dictique ordinis presidens in Anglia principalis, et serenissimi principis et domini nostri, Anglie Francieque regis, modo in sacratissima curia vestra Rome, ut ex fide-dignissimis viris accepimus, procurator, cum in Universitate nostra studio assideret se commendabilem prestitit; harum virtutum suarum meritis adducti, statuimus eundem magistrum Willelmum, gravem sane et eruditum hominem, vestre sanctitatis clemencie commendare. Plane cum in dicta Universitate nostra paullo ante facultati sacre canonis[4] operam dederit, adeo studiose vitam nobiscum transegit, cunctis ad capessendum virtutis et sciencie viam spectaculum exhibendo, quod in dicta facultate apud nos in Universitate nostra ad preeminenciam doctoralem ingenti honore provehi meritus erat. Qui simulac scolas dicte facultatis, ad plures annos multa industria ac sollerti et continua leccione, rexisset, pro tam religiosa ac integra conversacione sua, eximiaque virtute in sciencia atque in gubernandis et conciliandis populis, elevato ingenio ac probatissima policia, ipsum non solum abs suis confratribus optime meritum, sed eciam divina quadam sorte in caput et rectorem dicti monasterii assumptum esse existimamus. Quare, devotissime pater, cum ipsum virtus, sciencia et sapiencia sic commendent, vestram sanctitatem vehementer obsecramus, quatenus erga beatitudinem

[1] Here follow six lines which have been erased so as to be illegible; and at the foot of the folio occur these words, '*et constat mihi notario de cancellacione multarum linearum in principio hujus littere.*' [2] *ingenio* MS. [3] *alias plur. virtutes?* [4] *cononis* MS.

vestram nostra humillima et accuratissima deprecacione liberaliorem beneficenciam, uberiorem graciam et propensiorem favorem consequatur. Postremo, clementissime pater, injunctum nobis abs sanctissima paternitate vestra quodcunque officium est, pro vestra felicitate et gloria seu alio quocunque faciendum, illud ut obsequentissimi filii promptissimis gaudentissimisque animis pro viribus exsequemur. Et vestram sanctitatem, ad universalis ecclesie solamen et percelebre regimen, in longiora tempora gubernet prosperamque semper conservet Altissimus. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, sexto die Aprilis.* Sua humillima ac devotissima Universitas studii Oxoniensis.

194 [1].

The successful issue of your labours for us is a subject of great thankfulness; and, having no power to repay you, we pray that God will reward your good deeds. We are most grateful also to the King for the assistance he has given us in furnishing and ornamenting the new school. **Fol. 83 a.**

PRESTANTISSIME magister, debite salutacionis honore premisso. **1449.** Quod inter frequentes sollicitudines et studia vestra res nobis optatissimas promptissimo animo et amicissimo vultu ad vota duxeritis pergratum certe nobis est, et vos inde gratissimum habemus. Quanta etenim ex ea re dulcedine et leticia affecti sumus satis profecto non possumus dicendo explicare. Etenim vero cum memoria repetamus optima in nos merita vestra ac singularem benevolenciam, magni animi gratitudinem et precipuum amorem quos erga nos geritis, tantum immense probitati vestre nos debere planum visum est, quantum certe nobis persolvere difficillimum erit. Verum cum mutuam vicissitudinem rependere virium tenuitas haud permittit, Deum, equissimum premiatorem, dignam vobis mercedem tribuere duximus exorandum. Ceterum eximie gratitudinis et benevolencie vestre tam jucundam tam honestam et probabilem memoriam in eternum servabimus, constantem amiciciam vestram pariter [2] nobis exhibendam summopere cupientes. Interea benignissimo domino et principi nostro pro suo benevolo piissimoque affectu, quem penes Universitatem suam, matrem nostram, habere consueverat, potissimum tamen ob sue liberalitatis immortale beneficium, quod nuper usui et ornamento scolarum nostrarum beatissime contulit, dignas grates pro

[1] No address to this letter; probably letter 191 is addressed to the same person. Perhaps the business in question was only to beg the King to give some timber or lend some workmen. [2] *pariteriter* MS.

viribus in perpetuum exhibere decrevimus. Cujus perpetuum honorem, eternam laudem pro tam divino presidio cuncta ora nostra, cuncta eloquia celebrabunt. Postremo tam celso et clementissimo principi gloriosam hic et tranquillam vitam dari, in celo autem sempiternas delectaciones adjungi, pro tam amplissimis erga nos meritis suis vehementer afficimus; pro quo Deum omnium Regem accuratissime deprecamur. Valete et vivite feliciter nostris, ut soletis, memor. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, decimo octavo die Aprilis.* Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium in eadem, &c.

195 a[1].

Fol. 84 a.

Summons of Master John Arundall.

In the discharge of our duties we have examined the accounts of the chests; and find that, in the case of the Langtone chest, there is a large deficit. We have therefore determined to summon those responsible to appear before us in S. Mary's church, and render due account; and you are hereby summoned accordingly; but if you are unable to attend in person, we shall be satisfied by your appointing a proper proxy.

1449. Percelebri viro magistro Johanni Arundall, egregio medicinarum doctori nostroque confratri precarissimo.

Dileccionis vicissitudinem, felices successus et honorem. Quia jamdudum, celeberrime magister, inter ceteras occupaciones et studia nostra, singulis alme Universitatis nostre cistis singulari industria ac sollerti deliberacione nostra circumspectis, cuidam ciste de Langtone per sinistram custodiam ejusdem plurima emersisse detrimenta comperimus; ad cujus tutelam et reformacionem operam vigilanciorem impendentes, singulos, quorum interest in hac parte, tercio decimo die Junii proximo post datum presencium futuro, coram nobis in ecclesia Beate Marie Oxonie, debita inde ratiocinia reddituros decrevimus accersiri; Et quia dicta cista, tempore quo vestri maturitas curam ejus et custodiam subierat, multa dispendia, graves injurias et varia discriminum genera pertulit; igitur circumspeccionem vestram,—quam sincera affeccione complectimur, sano consilio suademus et exhortamur, atque virtute juramenti a vobis Universitati prestiti,—primo, secundo et tercio peremptorie monemus, quatenus, prelibatis die et loco, ad dictam Universitatem nostram, nobis super certis articulis

[1] There are two letters numbered the one 195 a, the other 195 b, in the MS. The intervening 'summons' is not numbered.

custodiam memorate ciste concernentibus, vestra benignitas se conferat, responsurum ulteriusque ibidem facturum et recepturum quod racio et justicia discucient in predictis. Si vero honesta impedimenta intervenerint, satis ad vota nobis erit ut verum et legitimum procuratorem, qui vestram in premissis vicem gerat, destinare curetis. Quod, si, uti pro officio vos decet, studueritis adimplere, rem sane vobis perutilem et nobis gratam facietis; at vestre commoditati, quantum cum equitate et justicia valebimus, curabimus providere. Quid plura? Valete et feliciter vivite, hujus precipue negocii ac nostrum sedule memor. *Ex Universitate Oxoniensi septimo decimo die Maii.* Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

Summons of Master William Wytham, as executor of Master John Lord.

PERCELEBRI viro, magistro Willelmo Wytham, egregio legum doctori nostroque confratri precarissimo. 1449.

Honores in scripto et meliores in voto &c., *usque ad istam clausulam que sequitur, scilicet* 'Et quia dicta cista tempore quo magister Johannes Lord curam ejus et custodiam subierat, multa dispendia, graves injurias et varia discriminum genera pertulit,' cujus executorem et bonorum administratorem vestram prestanciam esse fide digna relacione accepimus: Igitur circumspeccionem &c., *usque ad* 'Ulteriusque ibidem,' nomine dicti testatoris, facturum et recepturum &c., ulterius, *usque ad finem littere, ut supra in proxima littera precedente per totum.* Cancellarius, &c.

195 b.

To the Rector of Abchurch, London. Fol. 84 b.

Having heard how you consider the poor and needy in distributing the estate of Master Gedney, and also that you are disposed to regard us with benevolence, we affectionately entreat you, dear brother, to grant to us, for the building of the new theological schools, a suitable portion of the property of the deceased. We thank you for your good will, reported to us by Master Cowper, and beg you to give a favourable ear to his statements.

VENERABILI et circumspecto viro, Rectori de Apchyrch in Londonia, nostroque amico confidentissimo. 1449.

Venerabilis domine, debita salutacione premissa. E multis, clarissime, accepimus quomodo quadam bonorum disposicione cujusdam

venerabilis viri, nominati Gedeney, nuper elapsi—cujus anima in celis habitet—vestra famosa probitas in pauperes digne respicit, et plura pietatis opera caritatis intuitu complexatur. Nos equidem in quodam theologicarum scolarum edificio sub penuria laborantes, tam clarum et pulcerrimum opus absque multis proborum hominum adjumentis perficere non valemus; quocirca, carissime frater, vestram benignitatem affectuose rogamus, quatenus, ad tam sacri, tam utilis tamque necessarii operis complementum, competentem largicionem ex bonis dicti Gegdeney nobis erogandam, amore erga nos simul et caritate accensi, graciose dignemini providere. Tenemus firmiter certissimeque speramus hanc supplicem peticionem nostram, que caritati consonat et universalem studencium utilitatem intuetur, a tam liberali devocione vacuam non redire: presertim cum, inter cetera pietatis officia, illud precipue laude dignum arbitramur, quod ad ortodoxe fidei sciencieque incrementum principalius se extendit. Ceterum pro benevolo pioque affectu, quem erga nos vestri sinceritas gerit in premissis, sicut[1] ex relacione magistri Roberti Cowper presencium latoris plane didiscimus, pergrate amicicie vestre ab imis nostri cordium radicibus profluentes graciarum acciones offerimus[2] multiformes: attente rogantes, quatenus predicto magistro Roberto fidem indubiam, opem et favorem in presenti negocio feliciter adhibentes, ipsum, quantum poteritis, dignemini expedire. Valete, et multis annis vivite nostri memor. *Scriptum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo quarto die Maii.* Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem. MANYNGHAM.

196.

To Master Thomas Lesurs, Dean of S. Paul's.

We affectionately invite you to remember the subject of our previous letter to you. The prayer thereof proceeded from the confidence we feel in you, which we trust will not prove to be vain. Whatsoever sum you may be disposed to grant us, for the beautiful building now in progress here, from the estate of Walter Shirryntone deceased, you may safely entrust to Master Robert Cowper the bearer of these presents.

1449. PERCELEBRI viro magistro Thome Lesurs[3], ecclesie cathedralis S. Pauli decano, nostroque confratre precarissimo.

Honorabilis domine, debite salutacionis honore premisso. Quas superiores littere nostre peticiones continebant memoracioni vestre pleno recommendamus affectu; vestri probitatem caritatis atque

[1] *sicud* MS. [2] *offerrimus* ib. [3] See folio 5 *supra*.

amoris intuitu attente et obnixe rogantes, quatenus, sicut ex maxima fiducia scribencium processerunt, ita apud sinceritatem vestram efficaces et favorabiles habeantur; ne nostra desideria firmissima sua spe decidant, aut sua votiva priventur affeccione: quod sane vos, pro eximia virtute vestra et preclara amicicia, qua vestri benignitatem nos amplecti existimamus, non tam nostra supplicacione quam vestra spontanea mente credimus peracturum. Quo facto precipue dileccionis vestre certissimum indicium et benevolenciam, que erga nos geritis, efficaciter ostendetis. Proinde quodcunque ex facultatibus bone memorie domini Walteri Shirryntone, ad tam speciosi et pulcherrimi operis nostri in complementum, immense probitati vestre nobis providere visum est, illud per magistrum Robertum Cowper, carum nobis in Christo presencium latorem, ac probate fidei et examinate virtutis hominem, vestra dignetur prestancia destinare. Postremo vobis felicia auspicia, secundam valetudinem et nostre amicicie memoriam superesse vehementer afficimus. *Ex Universitate Oxoniensi, quam raptim, vicesimo quarto die Maii.* Cancellarius Universitatis, ut supra.

197.

To the executors of John Gedney. Fol. 85a.

To þe worshypfull and our ryght wellebeloved in God þe executours 1449.
of Jhon Gedeney.

Gretyng in Gode wt þe gostly suffrage of our prayers: fforasmoche þt ye have goods in yor disposicion, as hitt es sayde, of a worshipfull man of London called Gedeney, late passyd oute of thys world,—off whoys soule our Lord have mercy,—and, as hitt is nott unkanne, we have hade of long tyme a grete beldynge, certain scoles, withinne our Universite off Oxenford, named þe scoles off devinite, þe whych we may nott complysshe wt outt grete helpe & releve of oder devote persons; Wherfor we desyre and pray yow affectuosly, havyng respect & considerasion to thys premisses, þt ye woll, at þe reverence of Gode and our meke prayers, shew gracyeuxly your special favour & benevolence to us, in grauntyng us some resonable gyfte off goods of þe sayde Gedeney, unto þe performyng off our scoles abovesayd: wherinne ye shall do a ffull meritory thynge, & deserve of our Lord God a full singler thanke and plesur; and cause us allso for to be perpetuall oratours for yow & for þe soule of hym beforsayde: Trustyng verely þt this our peticion, þe whych concernyth þe commen profett of þe sayde Universite, special increse of vertous connyng & stodye, and þe edyficacion of crystenmen fath, shall not comme voyde a yene from

your godenesse: besekyng yow furthermor to gyffe credens to our welbeloved maister Robt Cowper, berer of thys same, in all þt he shall mynistre to yow in thys partie off our be halve. And all myghty Lord preserve yow evermor in welyth & prosperyte to your lyves hend.

Wrytt at Oxonford the xxiiii day off Maii. Be the Chanceller proctours and regents of þe Universite off Oxonford.

Fol. 85 b.

198[1].

From daily experience we know your great affection for this University; and pray that God will reward you for we are unable to do so. We are now in great difficulties, and send Master John Fitzjames, as our accredited messenger, with instructions to explain everything to you, and pray you to place implicit trust in his statements and give a favourable answer to our petition.

1449. Reverendissime in Christo pater et graciose domine, benignissime dominacioni vestre humillima recommendacione et obediencia filiali devote premissis: E probatissimis experimentis ac fama nunciante, que ad nos indies gratissima circumfertur, plane novimus ingentissimum erga nos animi vestri affectum, vestram quoque dominacionem sinceram Universitatis nostre caritatem pre se ferre. Unde pro tam constanti in nos fide et benevolencia vestra, cum opes nostre haud fuerint persolvere dignas grates, Deum potissimum premiatorem copiosam vobis mercedem tribuere sedulo duximus exorandum. Istud reverendissime paternitati vestre sciendum cupientes, quod tam etsi tenues duntaxat nobis facultates supersint, vobis tamen proxime accedimus amplissima voluntate. Nunc vero, singularissime domine, multis necessitatibus circumventi dilectum nobis in Christo Johannem ffytzjamys, capellanum nostre Universitatis, scolarem et indubitatum nuncium nostrum, ad vestram benignissimam dominacionem, sicut ad speratissimum nostre Universitatis patronum, mittimus pro succursu. Cui res et vota nostra eximie dignitati vestre curam dedimus explicandi; accuratissime humillimeque precantes humanissimam dominacionem vestram, quatenus memorato nuncio nostro in nostris referendis negociis fidem indubiam cum favore feliciter adhibentes, veluti nostram rempublicam in futuro salvam et incolumem vestra excellencia oblectarit, nostre supplicacionis intuitu quam citissime dignemini justas peticiones nostras efficaciter expedire. Qua in re magnum benevolencie et humanitatis exemplar nobis prestabit insignis dominacio

[1] No address.

vestra; que in multas etates superstes maneat nostri memor. *De Oxonia, quam raptim, in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo sexto die Octobris.* Reverendissime paternitatis vestre humillimi oratores Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

Indenture of agreement between the University and Master Richard Broun *alias* Cordone[1]. Fol. 86 a.

Master Richard Broun, alias *Cordone, having presented sundry books to the library of the University, The Chancellor, proctors and masters hereby undertake, for themselves and their successors, that the said Master Broun shall be allowed to use the books during his life; and that they shall be delivered to any authorized person sent by him for that purpose. His name shall be mentioned, in the masses and other prayers both for the dead and the living, among other benefactors.*

Hec indentura, facta inter magistrum Gilbertum Kymer, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, et magistros Johannem Wode et Willelmum Danyel, procuratores dicte Universitatis, cetumque unanimem magistrorum regencium in eadem ex parte una, et magistrum Ricardum Broun, *alias* Cordone, legum doctorem, ex parte altera, testatur, quod predictus magister Ricardus concessit, tradidit et libere dedit prefatis magistris Gilberto, Cancellario, et Johanni ac Willelmo, procuratoribus, cetuique unanimi magistrorum regencium in dicta Universitate, ac successoribus suis Cancellario et procuratoribus cetibusque unanimibus magistrorum regencium in prefata Universitate, ad usum, videlicet, communis librarie predicte Universitatis, hos libros inferius nominatos, 'Lecturarum domini Bartholi de Saxo Ferrato,' in papiro scriptos et in tabulis ligatos, in sex voluminibus, Super corpore juris civilis, Bartholum, videlicet, super ff. veteri, in duobus voluminibus; secundo folio primi voluminis[2] et prime partis, in dicto ff. veteri, '*tribu ubi mercator*'; secundo folio secundi voluminis et secunde partis, super ff. veteri, '*ex te enim non extraneum*': super ff. novo, in duobus voluminibus; secundo folio prime partis primi voluminis '*sed quare appellatur*'; secundo folio secunde partis et secundi voluminis ejusdem '*inspectis ideo per te.*' Et super ff. inforciati, secundo folio prime partis sive voluminis, '*servi annuunt*'; secundo folio secunde partis et secundi voluminis, super 1449.

[1] A later hand writes on the margin, '*cujus testamentum valde longum extat in Aaa,*' i. e. in the '*Acta Curiae Cancellarii,*' from which MS. it has been extracted and published in *Munimenta Academia* (Rolls Series). [2] The words '*sed quare appellatur*' follow '*voluminis,*' but are crossed out in the MS. by a contemporary hand.

eodem, '*in alio secundum quosdam.*' Item, 'Super codice,' in uno volumine, secundo folio '*-tem et pacificum statum.*' Habendum et tenendum omnes predictos libros predictis magistris Gilberto Kymer, Cancellario, et Johanni Wode et Willelmo Danyel, procuratoribus, cetuique unanimi magistrorum regencium in Universitate predicta, ac successoribus suis Cancellariis, procuratoribus, cetibusque magistrorum regencium ejusdem Universitatis, ad usum communis librarie predicte, ut dictum est; ad cleri et populi, juxta statuta ejusdem Universitatis, confluencium instruccionem et informacionem perpetuam. Predicti tamen magistri, Gilbertus Kymer, Cancellarius, Johannes Wode et Willelmus Danyel, procuratores dicte Universitatis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, volunt et concedunt, pro se et successoribus suis, Cancellariis, procuratoribus, cetibusque magistrorum regencium unanimibus dicte Universitatis, quod idem magister Ricardus Broun, *alias* Cordone, habeat usum omnium predictorum librorum per totam vitam suam, sine clameo ipsorum aut aliquorum suorum successorum, Cancellariorum aut procuratorum cetuumve magistrorum regencium. Eciam, si apud ipsos sint, vel in libraria predicta, quod ad ejus peticionem, sive nuncii nomine suo venientis, deliberentur eidem; ut usum eorum habeat quamdiu in hac vita, ubicumque fuerit, permaneat: quodque in missis et aliis suffragiis, per ipsam Universitatem aut dicte communis librarie custodes, sacerdotes seu alios, pro anima dicti magistri Ricardi mencio inter vivos et defunctos habeatur, prout pro ipsius Universitatis benefactoribus fieri consuevit. In cujus rei testimonium uni parti hujus indenture, penes predictos Cancellarium et procuratores in cista quatuor clavium dicte Universitatis remanentis, antedictus magister Ricardus Broun, *alias* Cordone, sigillum suum apposuit; alteri vero parti ejusdem indenture, penes eundem magistrum Ricardum Broun, *alias* Cordone, residentis, predicti magistri Gilbertus Kymer, Cancellarius, Johannes Wode et Willelmus Danyel, procuratores dicte Universitatis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem sigillum Universitatis predicte apponi fecerunt. *Datum Oxonie in domo congregacionis Universitatis predicte, decimo die Novembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo nono.*

Fol. 86 b.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1449. Secundo die Decembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo nono, sigillata erat acquietancia sub forma que sequitur.

Pateat universis per presentes, nos, magistros Johannem Wode et Willelmum Danyel, procuratores Universitatis Oxoniensis, recepisse de religiosis viris Abbate et conventu monasterii de Eynesham Lincolni-

ensis diocesis, vice et nomine Universitatis predicte, viginti sex solidos, pro parte cujusdam annue pensionis trium librarum et octo solidorum dicte Universitati, videlicet, pro termino Omnium Sanctorum proximo ante datum presencium, debitos: De quibus viginti sex solidis, in partem solucionis annue pensionis predicte, fatemur nos fore solutos; et inde predictos religiosos viros acquietamus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis predicte presentibus est appensum. *Datum in domo congregacionis Universitatis prefate, secundo die Decembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum vicesimo octavo.*

199.

To one of the executors of the late Bishop of Chichester.

As weapons to the soldier so are books to us, who fight for the Church against heretics. We beg you, therefore, since you have the disposition of his effects, to grant us a handsome donation of the books of the late Bishop of Chichester; who, as we learn from those who were intimate with him, always intended to give them to us: or, if that may not be, we hope you will make us some other present of conspicuous value.

VOTIVOS honores ac ea[1] perpetuo feliciter adimplere, que ad celebres 1449.
justicie laudes pertinent et glorie militaris. Sicuti pugnaturis militibus arma tuciora adversus hostium impetus necessarium dinoscitur, ita nobis indubie, qui Christiane fidei professores et peculiares alumpni sumus, contra hereticorum insultus atque pro solidiori militantis ecclesie confirmacione, opere precium est sanorum librorum multitudine communiri. Sed cum reverendus in Christo pater et dominus, nuper Cicestrensis episcopus,—cujus spiritus in celis habitet,—dum hoc labente seculo fretus erat, dignam nobis et felicem suorum librorum donacionem, uti bone fidei homines familiares sui plenissime retulerunt, ad ampliorem Dei, virtutis et sciencie cultum, constantissima mente tenuerit impartiri; itaque humanitatem vestram, quam equitate et justicia clarissimam arbitramur, plenis desideriis unanimiter obsecramus, ex quo bona dicti reverendi patris ad vestram, ut didicimus disposicionem pervenerint, quatenus egregiam aliquam predictorum suorum librorum largicionem,—cum eruditos viros nihil dignius nihilque honestius deceat[2],—in perpetuam recommendacionem et laudem nominis ejus, cum dilecto nobis in Christo confratre, magistro Nicholao Gosse presencium latore, cujus virtus et fidelitas apud nos probatissime sunt, premissa considerantes dignemini destinare. Quod si forte

[1] *eo* MS. [2] *deciat* ib.

aliquod impedimentum prevenerit quominus volumina obtinere poterimus, nostram tunc Universitatem cum alio quovis spectato et honorifico munere suo vestram benignitatem devotissime expetimus insignire. Quo facto rem vestre strenuitati dignam nobis atque gratissimam facietis. Floreatque vestra nobilitas in multas etates continua gloria et honore. *De Oxonia in nostre congregacionis domo, decimo die Februarii*[1].

200.

Fol. 87 a. **To another executor, or administrator, of the late Bishop of Chichester.**

Knowledge is the fruit of the constant study of many and good books. These then are our wealth; and we may well endeavour to collect volumes of the sacred writings from every possible source. We beg you will give us a large share of the books or some other considerable donation from the property of the late Bishop of Chichester; and send them to us by the bearer of this letter.

1449. Honores in scripto et meliores in voto; Cum uberrimos scienciarum fructus plurium optimorumque voluminum frequens et intentissima leccio parturiat, hinc libellorum multitudinem studiosis hominibus haud deesse. Quod si nos precipue in librorum cultu sollicitari, atque in illorum eloquiis, tanquam in splendidissimis diviciis, oblectari deceret; nobis utique dignissimum videtur colligendis undique sacris codicibus, ubi spes ulla superest, operam sollicitam dare. Plane, quanto litterarum fons uberior fuerit, tanto efficacius studium consequitur. Sed reverendus in Christo pater et dominus, Cicestrensis episcopus, nuper elapsus, —cujus anima celis gaudeat,—dum vitam hic tueretur, speciosam atque amplam suorum librorum donacionem ad conferendum nostre Universitati defixus erat, ut doctissimi reddimur, firmissima voluntate: Cujus bonorum administratorem vestram probitatem esse fama crebrescente nobis delatum est. Itaque celebritatem vestram unanimiter eciam atque eciam obsecramus, quatenus dicti reverendi patris insigne aliquod et illustre librorum munus, in perpetuam ejus memoriam, dilecto nobis in Christo confratri Nicholao Gosse, latori[2] presencium, examinate siquidem fidelitatis et virtutis homini[3], nobis dignemini maturius delegare. Quod si facile impetrare non possimus, aliam qualemcunque nobis memorabilem largicionem, qua nostra possit Universitas splendidior exiberi, benignitatem vestram, sicuti vobis cordi sumus, deposcimus[4] impertiri. Quod plane, cum religiosissima pietas

[1] No address or subscription to this and following epistles. [2] *latore* MS.
[3] *homine* ib. [4] *depossimus* ib.

sanctissimaque amicicia filiorum in parentem esse debeat, vestram fraternitatem non solum nostra deprecacione, sed vestra eciam generosa mente, credimus peracturam. Valete in eternum, disertissime magister, nostri memor. *De Oxonia in nostre congregacionis domo, decimo die Februarii.*

201 [1]. Fol. 87 b.

Your letter commending to us Master William Endyrby exhibits that regard, which we have always by past experience found that you feel for us. You will find us ever ready to acknowledge our obligations to you. Be graciously pleased to receive the bearer with favour and confidence.

REVERENDISSIME in Christo pater et domine, benignissime domina- 1449.
cioni vestre humillima recommendacione cum obediencia filiali devote premissis. Ex suavissimis humanissimisque litteris vestris, quas nuper in recommissionem boni et eruditi viri, fratris Willelmi Endyrby, digna veneracione accepimus, deque eciam longo tempore probatissimis creberrimisque experimentis dignissimam reverenciam vestram suavissimos benevolentissimosque affectus penes Universitatem nostram gerere facillime intuemur, unde profecto dominacioni vestre nos singularissime [2] devinctos habetis habebitisque, ut poeta inquit, '*dum spiritus hos regit artus.*' Quod equidem vestris affectum erat litteris implevimus quam libenter; equum est enim ut magnitudini vestre in omni re nos illos prebeamus, ut ad singula, que vestra reverendissima paternitas velit, ita appareamus [3] presto, ut nos non solum omnia debere contemplacione vestra que possimus, sed ea eciam que vires non suppetunt perficere putemus. Ceterum, quia longum sermonem litterarum vestre dignitati haud jucundum esse speramus, res et vota nostra, que maxime dicenda restant, latori presencium dedimus explicare: rogantes humillime atque accuratissime deprecantes benignitatem vestram, sic eum in negociis nostris apud dominacionem vestram recommendatum habere, ut illud, quod plenissima nostra affeccio expetit, gratissimum nobis et felicem effectum consequatur. Cui, veluti nos audieritis, aures dignemini impendere creditivas. Valete, benignissime pater, in multas etates felicissime; nosque solita humanitate et benevolencia complectamini. *Oxonie, decimo die Februarii.*

Testimonial letter issued for Master Denys ffrestone.

MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo die mensis Februarii, anno Domini 1449.
millesimo quadringentesimo quadragesimo nono, sigillata erat littera

[1] No address or subscription again to this epistle. [2] *singularissimes* MS.
[3] *apareamus* ib.

testimonialis pro magistro Dionisio ffrestone, non-regente, sub communi forma.

Acquittances of Masters Spekyntone and Norlonde; also of Oseney and Eynsham Abbeys.

1450. MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo septimo die Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo, sigillabantur quatuor acquietancie, scilicet, acquietancia Spekyntone, acquietancia Norlonde, acquietancia de Osney et acquietancia de Eynesham.

Fol. 88 a.

Testimonial letter for Master Roger Kyng.

1450. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera pietatis officia justicie proculdubio consentaneum, et nobis, qui virtutis et sciencie studia profitemur, peculiari quodam modo debitum est, viros morum gravitate et sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare. Enimvero dum studiosis et eruditis hominibus laus digna tribuitur, ceteri[1] ad capessendam virtutis et sciencie viam concitacius ardenciusque hortantur. Hec et hujuscemodi ante oculos nostre consideracionis statuentes, per has litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis in Christo confrater, magister Rogerus Kyng, nostre Universitatis predicte arcium magister, vir quidem conversacionis venustate conspicuus, ingenio agilis ac in dicta facultate mature eruditus, adeo studiose, sapienter et summa cum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, cunctis bene beateque vivendi spectaculum exhibendo, quod in eadem facultate apud nos ad magistratus apicem honorifice provehi meritus fuit; et que ad tanti gradus sollennitatem attinebant laudabiliter cuncta explevit. Ut igitur, hujus testificacionis gracia, omnium quorum penes se interest uberiorem consequatur favorem, has litteras sigillo communi Universitatis predicte fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, penultimo die Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo.*

A similar letter given to Master Roger Kyng.

MEMORANDUM, quod eodem die magister Rogerus Kyng habuit litteram testimonialem sub eadem forma.

Fol. 88 b. Noverint universi per presentes, nos, Gilbertum Kymer, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Ricardum Luke et Wistanum Browne . . .[2]

[1] *ceteris* MS. [2] The remainder is wanting in MS.

202.

To T. Bokelonde, Squyere.

GRETYNG in GOD, wyth the gostely suffrage off oure prayers; And forasmoch that we bene informed by oure welbeloved brother, Mr. Richard Luke, proctour off oure Universite, that ye have shewde grete kyndnes to oure Universite beforesaide, as in laberynge for us bifore thys tyme to þe most excellent prince Duke of Gloucestre, oure most gracyeux lord and protectour, late passyd oute þis troubulous world,—whose soyle God assoyle for hys hygh mercy,—therfore we thanke you wt all the intiernes off oure harts; prayng you hartly off continuance off yor gude frendshyp, & specially in þe mater that foloweth. We hold for certayn þt hyt is not out off yor remembrance how þe most noble prince beforsaide, for þe singlere favour and tendyrnes that he had unto oure Universite, yave & bequethyd unto us in hys testament, late before hys decese, all þe latyn bokes þt he had, & also ane c lib; to þe edefying off oure divine scoles; as þe saide proctour off oure Universite seyth þt ye certefyd unto hym: off þe whych gods we have no thynge yet receyved. And forsomoch þt certayn persones, as we understand, bene depute late forto execute deuly þe wyll off þe saide most gracyeux prince, after þe faculte off hys gods þat may be found; þerfore we pray you ryght tenderly to þe complesshynge off oure desyre, whych concernyth all þe commen wele off oure saide Universite & þe edificacion off cristenfayth, þat ye woll, at þe reverence off God and the instance off oure prayers, to do yor labyr and diligence to þe saide persones deputyd, for þe furthrance and promocion off us to þe said bokes & money, yeven unto us as hyt is premised; sendyng futhermor unto us the copy off the testament, in all þe hast resonabl, off the most noble prince abovesaide; þe whych, as we conceyve, ye promysed to do to þe proctour off oure Universite beforsaide: wherine ye may shewe gretely yor benevolence þat ye have unto us, & deserve also a ryght special thanke off oure Lord GOD. Whych have you evermor in hys blyssyd governance. *Wrytyn at Oxonford, þe xxviii day off Aust.* 1450.

203.

To Master John Summerset, Doctor of Medicine. Fol. 89 a.

Our proctor, Master Luke, tells us of your efforts to obtain for us the books given by the late Duke of Gloucester, and of your intercession with the King in our cause: also that you propose to add, of your own

gift, other books to his bequest. We are greatly pleased with this your benevolent inclination towards us, but we cannot understand how it is that, under these circumstances, the Duke's books, which came into your custody, are not delivered to us, unless it be that some powerful influence is exerted to prevent it; for a steadfast and good man will not be made to swerve from the path of justice by interest or cupidity. We trust, therefore, you will use your best endeavours to put us in possession, and thus do us a great service, and, at the same time, clear your own character and that of others now suspected. We send you a list of all the books in our library; and, if you have duplicates, please remember that, with our numerous students, we shall find them most useful.

1450. EXIMIE' dignitatis sciencie et celebritatis viro, magistro Johanni Summerset, medicinarum doctori nostroque amico precarissimo.

Votivam felicitatem, et iis, que ad celebres Dei et justicie laudes pertinent, firmiter adherere. Recenter accepimus, disertissime magister, a carissimo confratre nostro, magistro Ricardo Luke, nostre alme Universitatis procuratore, vestram celebritatem non modo pro libris nobis restituendis, a dulcissime recordacionis serenissimo principe duce Gloucestrie nuper elapso nostre Universitati predicte legatis, promptissimo animo et amicissimo vultu penes regiam majestatem velle insistere; sed quod vos nostra eciam studia devota librorum vestra[1] largicione lucidiora atque ampliora reddere decrevistis. Et plane benignitatem vestram tanta necessitudine nos amplecti pergratum nobis est, et vos inde gratissimum habemus, jocundam nobis amiciciam vestram erga nos perpetua diuturnitate ferendam vehementer cupientes. Verum cum bona dicti serenissimi principis post lacrimabilem obitus sui diem in vestram custodiam, ut palam est, atque disposicionem pervenerint; quod prefata nobis, ut premittitur, legata volumina utilitati et ornamento Universitatis nostre vestra deliberacio minime reservavit, nisi vestra fortassis ad hoc faciendum plenissima intencio aliorum hominum impetu frustraretur, grandi profecto ducimur admiracione; cum vir bonus et constans nulla perturbacione, complacencia aut cupiditate a justicie semita declinaret. Sed gerentes forte ipsis temporibus amplissimas potestates vobis impedimento fuere rectissime voluntatis, et quidem pro magna fide virtute et sapiencia vestra rem sic se habuisse putamus. Nunc vero, quum dictorum librorum nobis, uti leges et celebris consciencia dictant, debite reddendorum justissima desideracione afficimur; cujus eciam[2] desiderii perfecta spes et magna vis, ut tenemus, in vestra probitate nunc recumbit; itaque humanitatem vestram, sicuti decreveritis, as-

[1] *vestro* MS. [2] *eceam* ib.

siduo labore et industria penes regiam celsitudinem, ceterosque in hac parte creditos necessarios, pro tam honesto tamque racionabili voto nostro vestras interponere partes rogamus ex corde. Quo facto haud solum vestri nominis florebit integritas, ac aliorum, quos in premissis creditur non fuisse innocentes, scandalum evanescet; sed nobis eciam precipue amacionis et memorie specimen efficaciter ostendetis. Promissam insuper nobis pie liberalitatis vestre librorum donacionem rem ratam haberi firmiter estimamus. Proinde copiam registri omnium librorum dicte Universitati nostre pertinencium vestre maturitati cum presencium latore duximus transmittendam; Eo ut[1], si forte consimiles apud vos[2] libri maneant iis quos dicta copia inscripsimus, quod non eo magis vestra penes nos caritas minuatur (vestram prestanciam oratissimam habemus;) cum multiplicitatem studencium eandem materiam una contingat apud nos sepissime occupare. Et vestram dignitatem, celeberrime magister, nostri memorem felicibus semper letari auspiciis bonorum omnium plenissimus retributor faciat Christus Deus. *Oxonie in nostre Congregacionis domo, vicesimo octavo die Augusti.*

204.

To the Cardinal Archbishop of York, Lord Chancellor. Fol. 89 b.

It is generally reported that the present parliament has determined to take back all the lands recently granted for pious uses by the King. If this were done without exception, the consequence to us would be terrible; for the colleges would lose their rents, and thus the University, which is now made fruitful in virtue and knowledge by this bounteous stream, would become dry and barren, for these foundations are the chief attraction to students.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, domino Cardinali 1450.
Eboracensi, Anglie cancellario, nostro domino graciosissimo.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri benignissimo et domino nostro humillimam recommendacionem cum devotissimis nostris precibus apud Deum. Ex quo, reverendissime pater, instanti parliamento integram resumpcionem terrarum et possessionum, nuper devocionis domini nostri regis, diffiniri ex communi voce intelleximus, cujus effectum perpetuo nos graviter concernere visum est, dum temporales redditus collegiorum nostre communis matris virtutum, quos idem Christianissimus princeps in humane virtutis et catholice fidei in-

[1] *Eo ut.* These words are uncertain, and the words inclosed in brackets seem redundant, but at any rate there is one of the usual confusions here. [2] *nos* MS.

crementa donavit, sub prefato titulo resumi vulgaris presumpcio arbitratur. Quo pacto nostra Universitas, que dictarum possessionum gracia impresenciarum virtutibus et sciencia perenne[1] fecundatur, quasi sterili preoccupata otio inerti torpendo marcesceretur; cum studencium multitudinem, que apud nos esse consuevit, sepius exhibicione dictorum locorum quam aliunde palam scimus concrevisse. Hujus igitur rei, ablato premisso, inestimabile sequens malum pio intuenti animo apperitur. Itaque humanissimam dominacionem vestram, cui cerciorem fidem ac confirmaciorem spem opis nostre reposuimus, [habemus[2], atque] gratiosam ac velut paternalem tutelam esse in hac parte suppliciter exoramus; et hanc nostram rempublicam solito more vestre humanitatis grato et benignissimo animo pensare; cum res tante cure a nobis fieri nequit, nisi altiori superne mentis[3] medio, quo dictarum possessionum optato fine potiamur. Et quoniam non facile quidem nobis est satis alti generis laudes et preconia amplissime dominacioni vestre pro tantis muneribus excogitare, que nuper in scolarum nostrarum edificia impensa[4] fuisse decrevistis; sit igitur ipse nobis pius consul Seneca, qui melius esse voluit ut beneficia non respondeant quam non dentur; dum terrenam spernunt, immo celestem expectant retribucionem; qua[5] vestram benignissimam dominacionem frui plenissimus omnium bonorum retributor faciat Christus Deus. *Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, sextodecimo die Novembris.*

205.

To the Commons' House of Parliament.

This University is the mother of the clergy and the source of their learning; and we know that her prosperity is dear to you, for here are educated not only students from foreign lands, but also those most near and dear to you, your children and other relatives; who from their studies here derive the training which qualifies them for exalted positions in the state. Now if the design of taking back the lands, given by the King for religious objects, should be carried out, our colleges would have

[1] This passage in the MS. is unintelligible; the writing is quite plain, however, and the words are '*Beronne fecundatur quasi tanquam sterili preocupatur ocio mexti torpendo*,' &c. The version in the text is suggested as possibly near the truth, a conjecture confirmed by similar words in Seneca, *Ep.* 81, ed. Lips. Seneca, it may be observed, was clearly much read at Oxford at this time. See ep. 206, and testimonial letter for Mr. Kyngdon, fol. 110 b, for two of the numerous instances of application of Seneca's philosophical tenets. [2] *hebemus atque* MS. The words seem to be redundant, or something is left out as usual. [3] *mente* MS. [4] *inpessa* ib. [5] *quia* ib.

to reduce the number of their fellows, and the University would lose one of its chief attractions to students. We trust, therefore, that an exception in favour of these foundations may be made.

VENERABILIBUS ac circumspectis viris hujus presentis ac nobilissimi parliamenti communariis. 1450.

Votivos honores, et iis rebus firmiter adherere que ad laudem Dei, gloriam et decorem regni, ac augmentum pertinent studii salutaris. Cum inter precipua et celeberrima hujus famosissime regionis loca, nostra Universitas Oxonie,—que fecunda mater est et lucerna cleri, sine quo nulla ubique terrarum nacio aut communitas sincera fide ac integra prosperitate diu manere poterit,—ad ornamentum et gloriam, fame titulum, publicamque dicti imperii beatitudinem suis salutaribus disciplinis ac probitate morum vehementer pertineat; ipsam igitur valde erigi, ac in claris sui membris salvam et incolumem egregie preservari, eximias[1] gravitates vestras velle ac intimius desiderare putamus. Quod plane eo nobis evidencius visum est, quod non modo a peregrinis et distantissimis mundi partibus homines, verum eciam hujus nostre clarissime patrie dulcissimi liberi, cari nepotes, et consanguinei ac propinqui, affines vestri, sacris litteris ac moribus imbuendi, apud nos in famosis et devotis collegiis aliisque approbatis locis habitant; tanquam in fontali loco vere fidei, sciencie et virtutis; quibus eleganter prediti ad quam grandes et varios dignitatum honores, in magnum cumulum glorie ac splendoris regni nostreque Universitatis et amicorum suorum, sepissime eriguntur[2]. Sed quoniam in hoc presenti parliamento pro resumpcione terrarum et possessionum, nuper devocionis domini nostri regis, ita generaliter adhibenda tantus, ut didicimus, labor efficitur, quod revera in precipuum nostre Universitatis decrementum, ac grave dispendium et depauperacionem egregiarum partium ejusdem, nisi vestris industria et favore honestum interveniat medium, verisimiliter redundaret,—sunt etenim quedam nostre Universitatis percelebris fame collegia, eo sub numero sociorum ordinata, quod si ea reddere deberent, que per eundem illustrissimum principem eis conferri noscuntur, non solum socios dictorum locorum sed alios eciam, quos spes future promocionis ad eadem collegia in dicta Universitate nostra compulerit exspectare, simul cum beata doctrina deficere oportebit,—itaque, tametsi prefatam resumpcionem ad regis Fol. 90 a.
et regni prosperitatem procul dubio rem summe necessariam esse arbitramur, vestre tamen prudentissime congregacionis cetui assiduis precum instanciis unanimiter supplicamus, quatinus de vestre benevolencie ac pietatis fecunditate talem moderacionem in predicta

[1] *eximeas* MS. [2] *exiguntur* ib.

materia, sicuti optime scitis et potestis, premissa considerantes dignemini providere, quod nihil in dicto presenti parliamento factum seu faciendum in prefatorum collegiorum nostre Universitatis gravamen seu prejudicium cedere debebit. Interne consideracionis oculo perpendentes, quod egregie virtutes et sciencie, quibus premissa nostra Universitas hoc nobilissimum imperium totamque[1] Christianitatem illustrat, in collegiis fundatis in eadem precipue radicantur; hac pro re summas indubie atque immortales a Deo grates, nos quoque perpetuos oratores vestros vobisque in eternum devinctos habebitis. Et prenobilis vestre congregacionis cetum in singulis agendis dirigat Christus Deus. *Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, decimo die Novembris.* Vestri oratores devoti Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

206.

To the Duke of York.

The Romans, who excelled all other nations in war, and the great philosophers of ancient times, alike considered those, who labour for the good of the commonwealth, deserving of the highest praise. Such have been your labours and such will be your reward. Let us speak to you then of our commonwealth—this University—and beg you so to labour in our behalf, that we may not be deprived of the lands given to the colleges by the King. These foundations not only provide for their own fellows; but the prospect of promotion, which they offer, is a great attraction to students to come to Oxford; and the loss of them would be a mortal blow to learning; no less than, as Seneca says, a separation of soul and body.

1450. Illustrissimo principi, domino duci Eboracensi, nostro domino graciosissimo.

Summis ac probatissimis viris, illustrissime princeps, sane visum est ipsos viros benemeritos ac ingenti laude dignos fore, quos florenti statui reipublice, ne facile a sua gloria decidat, totis animorum conatibus insudare constabat. Nam communi utilitati studere, patriamque aut consilio aut[2] opera tueri, non solum apud Romanos, qui ceteras gentes in milicie gloria longe anteibant, verum eciam apud ipsos antiquitatis philosophos inter cetera preclara facta pro divinissimo sancitum erat. Vestre igitur serenitati summa ac maxima proposita esse premia speramus, que in totius Anglie rempublicam jam pene

[1] *totaque* MS. [2] *ut* ib.

lacessitam maximo ac continuo zelo fervebat: sed quid diximus 'lacessitam'? revera vestra sciens[1] tenet prudencia quantum hujus olim florentissime ac famosissime regionis, inter cetera totius[2] orbis terrarum regna, fama statusque quorumdam sceleratorum[3] jamdudum pravis factionibus a priscis suis honoribus pene sopiti ceciderunt. Cum igitur inter cunctos orbis principes percelebri fama evecti estis, nihil sublimitas vestra principis nomine dignius[4] vel prestantissimorum majorum vestrorum virtute[5] facere potest, quam ut communi bono, uti diximus, lacessito, quassato ac pene profligato subveniat[6], quam maxime laboret; ex qua re celeberrimam famam et gloriam vestra serenitas adipiscetur, firmam quidem et nullis seculis defecturam. De nostra nunc republica,—Universitatis nostre bonum intelligimus,—sermo brevis humanitati vestre texendus est. Cujus certe status[7] marcessere ac pene deficere arbitratur, si ea ad effectum deducta sint que fama crebrescente a plurimis existimantur[8]. Vulgari quidem tenetur opinione[9] resumpcionem terrarum et possessionum, nuper devotionis domini nostri regis, presenti parlyamento integram[10] definiri; que[11], si nulla moderacio honesta preveniat, perpetuo nobis decremento fiet. Sunt etenim quedam famosissima nostre Universitatis collegia, que si ea reddere deberent, que sibi per regem patentibus litteris collata sunt, non modo socios dictorum locorum sed alios etiam, quos spes future promocionis ad eadem collegia in dicta Universitate nostra compulerit expectare, simul cum bona doctrina deficere oportebit. Doctrinam vero deficere, uti Senece aliisque doctissimis placebat viris, nihil aliud est quam animas a corpore separari[12], virtutes singulas extirpari, et, ut summam feramus, damna respublicas undique penetrare. Ea propter, serenissime princeps, tota Universitas, qua potest devotione, vestram benignitatem exorandam[13] duxit, quatinus prefato malo verisimiliter eventuro humanissime occurrat. Quo facto per- **Fol. 90 b.**
petuos honores et eternas laudes vestras non modo nostrum viventium sed posteritatis eciam nostre cuncta ora, cuncta eloquia celebrabunt. Et vestra serenissima dominatio, ad Dei laudem et decorem regni, in multas etates floreat continua gloria et honore. *Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, decimo die Novembris.* Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem.

[1] This word in the MS. is unintelligible, more resembling sciens, perhaps, than anything else. [2] It will be noticed that the letters *c* and *t*, at this date and forwards, in the MS. begin to be indiscriminately used before *i*. [3] *scelaratorum* MS. [4] *dignus* ib. [5] *virtuti* ib. [6] *subveniant* ib. [7] *statun* ib. [8] *extimantur* ib. [9] *opinioni* ib. [10] *integra diffiniri* ib. [11] *quam* ib. [12] *seperari* ib. [13] *exornandam* ib.

207.

To the Lords spiritual and temporal of the present Parliament.

The wisest men of old times considered the pursuit of virtue and learning the highest aim of statesmen, as being the source of safety and good government. Hence the foundation of Universities, and, among them, of Oxford, conspicuous for virtue, learning, and the faith unalloyed; and a centre of attraction to students of every degree, noble, gentle, or simple. To take away, then, the chief support of students from us would be, of course, the ruin of our studies; for the lands, which it is proposed to take back, not only maintain a certain number of fellows, but they are likewise a potent attraction to those who hope for promotion as a reward. The history of Lacedaemon, Athens, and Rome proves that the decay of education means the decline of empire.

1450. SPECTATISSIME congregacionis cetui dominorum spiritualium et temporalium hujus nobilissimi instantis parliamenti.

Preclarissimi domini, spectatissime vestre congregacionis cetui subjecciones honoresque cum omni devotione et humilitate. Apud antiquos probatissime auctoritatis viros inter summas reipublice partes nulla quedam prestantior habita neque illustrior visa est, quam ea que gloriosum virtutis cultum ac fecunde discipline studium precipue intuetur. Quam ideo, sicuti illam in qua salus patrie ac perfeccio totius regni constituta sit, in primis augendam tuendamque ac sinceriter diligendam censuere. Itaque clarissimi principes retroactis temporibus precelebres ubique terrarum Universitates, communia et studiorum loca, ubi nunc preclare virtutes cum scienciarum rutilante splendore attentissime coluntur, tanquam pro reipublice, regnorum, civitatumque[1] procuracione substituta, dedicarunt. Sed dum alma parens nostra Universitas Oxoniensis suis salutaribus virtutibus et doctrinis ad incolumitatem, splendorem et famam, precipuamque bone fidei tuitionem hujus nobilissimi imperii, ceteras inter celeberrimas communitates egregie spectare dinoscitur[2], nobiles itaque strenuis parentibus nati, mediocres eciam atque humiles, et fere ex omni alio genere hominum gracia addiscendi veniunt ad electivam matrem sciencie et virtutis. Hanc itaque famosam Universitatem nostram a nobis, benignissimi domini, et in se ac claris sui membris, gratis amplexibus complectendam fovendamque ac precipue defendendam putamus. Statum etenim ac percelebrem famam dicte matris nostre gravissimorum estimatione magistrorum pene de-

[1] *regnorumque civitatum* MS.

[2] In the MS. four words, *ad eterni hujus regionis*, here follow *dinoscitur*.

ficere arbitratur, si ea ad effectum deducta sint, que a vulgo tritissime predicantur. Communi namque voce tenetur instanti parliamento terrarum et possessionum, nuper donacionis domini nostri regis, generalem futuram esse resumpcionem: que, si nullam penitus excepcionem habeat, maximo nobis decremento fiet[1]. Sunt profecto quedam nostre Universitatis sacra et devota collegia, eo sub numero sociorum ordinata, quod si repetita fuerint, que per eundem Christianissimum principem eis conferri noscuntur, non solum numerum sociorum eorumdem, sed aliorum eciam studencium, quos spes future promocionis ad eadem collegia in dicta Universitate compulerit expectare, deficere necesse esset. Studentibus vero sublatis doctrinam perire oportet. Et quid aliud est doctrinam extinguere, quam lucem e medio tollere, vicia quoque regnare, et, ut paucitate verborum utamur, singula incommoda regno provenire. Superiores transcurrenti[2] historias notissima sunt que diximus. Lacedemoniorum, Atheniensium ac Romanorum olim respublice florentissime fuerunt; concidente vero in eis veteri disciplina, ad id sunt deducti, quod vix eorum nominum vestigia relicta sunt. Itaque preclarissime vestre congregacionis cetui dictam Universitatem, matrem nostram, tota qua possumus devotione recommittimus per presentes; supplicantes humillime, quatinus eandem matrem nostram piis ac gravissimis defensionibus vestris ab imminenti **Fol. 91 a.**
periculo dignemini liberare. Qua[3] pro re benignissime dominationes vestre continua apud nos vigebunt memoria, apud posteros vivent, et in ipsa eternitate superstites erunt. *Oxonie, in nostre congregacionis domo, decimo die Novembris.* Vestri humillimi oratores Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem.

208.

To the Commons' House of Parliament.

To the worshipfull commyners off þis present noble parlament. 1450.

Rvght worshupfull sires, worthy commeners in thys and noble parlament, grace and þe godnes of þe holy gosthe be wt you to streynth yow to gedur; to þe honore and þe wership of god, to þe gode pece, profith, welyth and þe desyderable and durable prosperyth of all þis noble Realme. Please hyt you to knowe that oure moder þe Universythe prayth tendyrly for ȝow and oure good spede, consideryng youre gret and intensive ȝele and labur þt ȝe have to þe reformyng and save governawnce of þe seid Realme. and for asmosche that a generall resumpcion, and we wnderstonde, is in laboryng to be

[1] *fient* MS. [2] *trascurrenti* ib. [3] *quia* ib.

hadde to þe kyngis handys of londys tenementys and possessonis; oure seide Universith, whych ys þe moder, lanterne, and welle of þe clergy, prayth ȝow devotly to excepte colleges of þe same Universyth, of piouse intencione to þe worshyp of god, and encrese of holy fayth by diverse sciencys and vertus of home growyt; stronge pyllers of holy churche, as prelatys and sage fadyrs of ȝoure chyldryn, kyn and cousyns. Warfore by naturale inclinatione, as we trusth on ȝou, we[1] woll oure strencth in mayntenyng oure collegges before sayde; consyderyng þt þe principall bemys of vertus and connyng[2], by þe whych oure sayde Universith shynyth[3] and lyghnyth alle þis noble Realme, spryngh and growyth out of þe colleges fundyd, stabllid in þe same. And for ȝou all in generall we schall offyr to almygthy god oure devote prayers. *Writ at Oxford in oure sembly hous, þe x day of Novembur.*

Chaunceller of þe Universyth of Oxonford et[4] þe hole semble of maystrys Regentys in the same.

Fol. 91 b.

209[5].

1450. Right Worshipfull syreȝ, grace, pece and prosperite be to you, to godes Worship and to the gode Welth of the Realme of Englond ever during. Worthy syres, forasmoche that mony of your own Issieu and also kynnesmen hath, be now, and shall be in tyme comyng tenderly and bysyly norysshed and avaunced wt the Rype frute of connyng in oure moder the Universite of Oxonford; in to the glory and the Worship of god in special, and to the mayntenaunce of crysten faith, causyng of Wyse menn in the Realme, and to you grete ioy, confort, and eternal mede; that causeth, supporteth, and furthereth suche studieȝ: Therfore we conceyveth that youre natures and benevolencȝ shuld enioy wt ws of the furtheraunce of the said Universite. And for somoche that oure ryght special lord and myghty Prince the Duke of Gloucestre, late passed out of this worlde,—whos soule god assoyle for his hygh mercy,—not long bifore his decesse, being in oure said Universyte emonge all the Doctoureȝ and maistereȝ of the same sembled togedor, graunted unto us all his latyn bokes, to the lovyng of god, increce of Clergy and connyng menn, to the gode governaunce and prosperite of the Realme of Englond wtouten ende, bifore all other contreyeȝ or placȝ of the World; the Whiche gyfte often tymeȝ aftre,

[1] *we he* MS., probably should be '*ye woll be oure strencth.*' [2] *comyng* ib. [3] *shymyth* ib. [4] *et.* This is as it stands in the MS. (probably an accidental error by the scribe, more accustomed to Latin or French); but the *et* has the mark of a contraction as if for *etiam*, *ēt*. [5] No address, superscription or title to this letter in MS.

be oure messengere ȝ, and also in his laste testament, as we understande, he conformed, the Which bokes we myght, be no maner of laboure ȝ, sythen he decessed opteyne; Therfore We besech your sage discrecione ȝ, consideryng all this premysse ȝ, that ye Wyll, at the reverence of god and the instance of oure devote prayers, to the complesshing of our said ryght special lordes Wylle and desire, and of ryght Wesnes to be had in this behalve, ordeyn in suche Wyse for us in this present noble parliament that We may reioysse[1] the bokes biforesaid. And so oure lord god inspyre you and governe you to his pleasaunce wt helth of soule and body to youre lyves ende. *Writene at Oxonford, &c.*

210[2].

The duke of Gloucester, out of his zeal for the Church and love for us, wished that we should have all his Latin books; and in our convocation here publicly, and often by messengers to us, gave them to us, and confirmed the gift in his last will and testament, as we are informed; we pray then that, of your charity and love of justice, you will exert your influence to obtain for us possession of them. Fol. 92 a.

FELICES successus, et que ad perpetuam regni et studii nostri gloriam 1450.
pertinent efficaciter adimplere. Cum animadvertimus gravitates vestras, prudentissimi homines, inter magnas occupaciones et studia vestra, res ipsas precipue, quas clarissimo principi Humfrido, nuper duci Gloucestrie, singulari domino et protectori nostro pertinere censuistis, sacra quadam benevolencia ac sincera pietate promovere; igitur in tali negocio, quod idem clementissimus princeps, dum in humanis agebat, nostre Universitati piissimo desiderio ac firmissima mente prestituit adimplendum, tam claro ac felicissimo cetui vestro scribere pro succursu nobis quam fructuosum et utile arbitramur. Voluit etenim humanissimus ille ac litteratissimus princeps, ob precipuum in nos zelum ac amorem suum, ad Christiane religionis et cleri perpetuum incrementum, omnes latinos sui libros pre ceteris nobis dari. Nam semel apud nos in nostre congregacionis domo, adunatis singulis doctoribus et magistris dicte Universitatis, ac sepenumero per internuncios nostros, de summa et magnifica liberalitate sua, nobis eosdem publica voce concessit; ac eandem donacionem paullo ante lacrimabilem obitus sui diem, uti didicimus, in testamento suo feliciter confirmavit. Itaque benignitatibus vestris devotas preces nostras, non sine maxima quadam animi

[1] i. e. *rejoice, receive*? or '*rejoice in*'?

[2] No address, subscription or title in MS.

vehemencia et fiducia profusas, effundimus; supplicantes quatinus divina reverencia et contemplacione dicti serenissimi principis, nuper zelatissimi amatoris nostri,—cujus spiritus in celis habitet,—intuitu eciam caritatis et justicie complementi, talem nobis opem et favorem in hac parte ostendere dignemini, ut vestra virtute et industria dictos libros, nobis, ut premittitur, piissima voluntate memorati principis indultos, quam primum fieri poterit consequamur. Quo facto, cum ea res ad sustentacionem sacre discipline, virtutisque ac catholice fidei unice et singulariter pertineat, rem vobis profecto longe meritoriam, nobisque et posteritati nostre dignissimam facietis. Et prenobilis vestre congregacionis cetum, ad regni et Universitatis nostre solamen, commodum et honorem, in magnam etatem prosperet Christus Deus. *De Oxonia, &c.*

211[1].

To a reputed executor of the Duke of Gloucester.

Books are as necessary to us as weapons are to soldiers; by them we are enabled to defend the Church and overthrow hereticks. We pray you then to use your influence in our behalf, that we may have possession of the books promised by the Duke of Gloucester; for they will, as we are informed, be in your hands for disposal.

1450. VOTIVOS honores, et ea perpetuo feliciter adimplere, que ad celebres justicie laudes pertinent et glorie militaris. Sicuti pugnaturis militibus arma tuciora providere adversus hostium impetus necessarium dinoscitur, ita nobis indubie, qui Christiane fidei professores ac propinquiores alumni sumus, contra hereticorum insultus, atque pro solidiori militantis ecclesie confirmacione, opere precium est sanorum librorum multitudine communiri. Sed cum felicis memorie illustrissimus princeps Humfridus, nuper dux Gloucestrie, noster graciosissimus
Fol. 92 b. dominus et protector, ob precipuum amorem ac singularem benevolenciam et pietatem, quam penes nos, dum rebus humanis fruens, habuerat, omnes latinos sui libros, ad ampliorem Dei, virtutis et sciencie cultum, palam in Universitate nostra, presentibus singulis doctoribus et magistris ejusdem, ac aliis subinde temporibus per internuncios nostros, nobis pre ceteris quibuscunque habendos, ex amplissima liberalitate sua concessit, ac eandem donacionem, sicuti nobis dignissima relacione compertum est, parum ante extremum sui diem virtute testamenti sui firmiter roboravit; itaque humanitatem

[1] No address, &c., again, but, as the allusions to military life seem to indicate, the person to whom this letter was written, was certainly a layman, and of military calling.

vestram, quam equitate et justicia clarissimam arbitramur, plenis desideriis unanimiter obsecramus, ex quo bona dicti serenissimi principis, uti didicimus, in vestram disposicionem pervenient, quatinus ad dictos libros, nobis ut premittitur feliciter donatos, in complementum justicie ac piissime voluntatis prefati domini nostri, nos, quam cito poteritis, dignemini promovere. Quo facto, rem vestre strenuitati dignam nobis quoque gratissimam facietis. Floreatque nobilitas vestra in multas etates continua gloria et honore. *De Oxonia.*

212[1].

To a reputed executor of the Duke of Gloucester.

As we hear that the effects of the late Duke of Gloucester will be at your disposal, we beg you will, of your piety and benevolence, help us to obtain them, for it is of the greatest importance to us to have, and to gather from every quarter, books on sacred subjects, since from the study of them springs the most fruitful harvest of knowledge.

FELICIUM incrementa successuum, et iis rebus firmiter adherere, que 1450.
ad celebres Dei laudes ac augmentum pertinent studii salutaris. Cum uberrimos scienciarum fructus plurium optimorumque voluminum frequens et intentissima leccio parturiat; nobis, qui virtutis et sciencie studia profitemur, colligendis undique sacris libris, ubi digna spes habendi superest, apprime convenit occupare. Etenim quanto litterarum fons uberior fuerit, tanto efficacius studium consequitur. Sed quoniam singularissimus benefactor noster, serenissimus princeps Humfridus, nuper dux Gloucestrie, omnes latinos sui libros nobis viva voce concessit, ac in ea piissima voluntate usque ad ultimum fati sui diem, ut ex fide dignorum testimonio accepimus, continue perduravit; itaque humanitatem vestram maximis atque intimis precibus duximus exorandam, ex quo bona predicti illustrissimi principis, uti didicimus, ad vestram curam atque administracionem pervenient, quatinus sacra in nos benevolencia et profusa pietate vestra dictorum librorum nobis equidem, sicut justicia et consciencia suadent, debite reddendorum optato fine pociamur. Nullum utique beneficium ad egregias virtutes et beatam doctrinam capessendas nobis oblatum iri prestancius aut magnificencius arbitramur. Et vestram nobilitatem feliciter valere semperque leto florere successu faciat Christus Deus. *De Oxonia, quam raptim, &c.*

[1] No address to this and to the following epistles.

213.

To the Bishop of ——— reputed to be an executor of the Duke of Gloucester.

Fol. 93 a. *To the same purpose as the preceding letters.*

1450. Reverende in Christo pater et domine, debitas reverencias et honores cum devotissimis nostris precibus apud Deum. Dominacionem vestram credimus non latere, benignissime pater, quomodo dive et bone memorie serenissimus princeps Humfridus, nuper dux Gloucestrie, ad perpetuum virtutis et doctrine ac catholice fidei incrementum, omnes latini ydiomatis libros suos, sincero quodam ac precipuo amore studii nostri, nobis ex piissima liberalitate sua sepenumero, cum vixerat, libere et gratanter concessit: quam utique promissionem, paullo ante flebilem et infaustum necis sue diem, uti nobis significatum est, virtute testamenti sui ratam haberi prestituit. Sed cum opes predicti nobilissimi principis in manu vestra, ut docti reddimur, pervenient, igitur tota devocione nostra dominacionem vestram suppliciter imploratam habemus, ut quod nobis memoratus princeps pia voluntate indulsit, per vestram in nos graciam et benevolenciam non minori pietate sit executum: Quo facto non modo nos viventes, sed posteri nostri nomen et magnificenciam vestram summis ac eternis laudum preconiis celebrabunt. Postremo pro pristinis beneficiis vestris dominacioni vestre singulares et amplissimas grates agimus, sperantes hoc quoque librorum optatum beneficium, ubi in vestram disposicionem venerint, celeriter adipisci. Et vestram dominacionem, ad felix ecclesie vestre regimen, in magnam etatem prosperet Christus Deus. *De Oxonia.*

To the Bishop of ———.

1450. Reverende in Christo pater et domine, humillima recommendacione premissa cum devotissimis matris precibus apud Deum: Non fugit, uti credimus, dominacionem vestram magnificum illum principem nuper ducem Gloucestrie, ob singularem in nos benevolenciam et pietatem suam, omnes latini sermonis libros suos, ad sacrosancte ecclesie Dei et tocius Christiane religionis supportacionem, nobis, dum hoc labenti seculo fretus erat, eximia et divina quadam liberalitate apud Universitatem nostram palam concessisse: quam utique egregiam ac in eternum memorabilem donacionem, si ea quidem uti potuerimus, . . .[1]

[1] No address to this fragment.

Acquittance of the Warden and Fellows of All Souls College.

Fol. 93 b.

Five years' rent of Tynchwyke's Inn in 'Catestrete' paid to the University.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Gilbertum Kymer, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Ricardum Luke et Wistanum Browne, procuratores dicte Universitatis, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, vice et nomine dicte Universitatis, de custode et sociis collegii animarum omnium fidelium defunctorum in Oxonia quinque marcas sterlingorum; de redditu cujusdam fundi, situati infra precinctum dicti collegii, vocati antiquitus 'Tynchewykesyn,' in vico de 'Catestrete'; pro quinque annis ultime ante datum presencium elapsis: videlicet pro quolibet anno tredecim solidos et quatuor denarios: De quibus quidem quinque marcis fatemur nos, vice et nomine predicte Universitatis, fore fideliter solutos pro predictis quinque annis; dictumque custodem et socios, et eorum successores ac quoscunque alios, inde quietos per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune predicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in domo nostre congregacionis, tercio die Octobris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum vicesimo nono.* 1450.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Gilbertum Kymer, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Ricardum Luke et Wistanum Browne, procuratores dicte Universitatis, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, vice et nomine dicte Universitatis, de viris religiosis Abbate et conventu monasterii de Einsham, Lincolniensis diocesis, sedecim solidos; pro annua pensione dicte Universitati debita in festo S. Nicholai ultimo elapso: De quibus quidem sedecim solidis fatemur nos, vice et nomine predicte Universitatis, fore fideliter solutos, dictosque viros religiosos, Abbatem et conventum predicti monasterii, inde acquietamus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis predicte presentibus est appensum. *Datum in domo nostre congregacionis, quartodecimo die Decembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum vicesimo nono.* 1450.

214.

To the Lords spiritual and temporal of this Parliament.

Your forefathers highly esteemed learning, as the source of strength to the commonwealth and of glory to their arms in war; for from books men learn the history of the past and by its example may shape their conduct. We believe you are of the same opinion, and therefore most humbly entreat you to give effect to the last will of the late Duke of Gloucester, in which he gave us the precious treasure of all his books, to help us in our bloodless warfare.

1450. SPECTATISSIMO cetui dominorum spiritualium et temporalium hujus nobilissimi parliamenti domini nostri regis.

Preclarissimi domini, spectatissimo cetui vestro honores ac justam observanciam. Dignissimi in primis memoratu progenitores vestri, maxima[1] secum conferentes ratiocinando, studia litterarum magni facere, in honore habere, ac augere magnopere curarunt; animadvertentes inde reipublice ac domestice simul ac rei militari restaurandis et illustrandis non parum commodi et emolumenti affuturum. Ab ipsis etenim optimis studiis accepimus clarissima superioris etatis exempla presciendis futurorum eventibus dubiis adaptare. Et quia dominaciones vestras tam sacratissime rei proposito inherere ac majoribus vestris, ad amplianda hujusmodi exercicia[2], conformari plenissimam tenemus opinionem, hanc causam nostre supplicacionis tam clarissimo cetui vestro in presenciarum statuimus aperire. Quod cum felicis memorie Humfridus, dux nuper Gloucestrie, nostre inermi milicie peregregius protector, dum adhuc compos animo fuerat, in nostre congregacionis domo preciosissimum omnium librorum suorum thesaurum nobis ante omnes mortales derelicturum se et donaturum gratanter asseruit, quam piissimam donacionem, per intervenientes modo suos modo nostros legatos, sepenumero confirmatam, perseveranter ratam habuisse intelleximus, ad ipsum usque momentum lacrimabile quo diem sibi clausit extremum; cujus ultime voluntatis vestra auctoritate, sapiencia et virtute celerem fieri execucionem, dominacionibus vestris, coram eisdem non minus mente quam sermone humillimis, prostrati supplicamus. Quo pacto libri ipsi ad institutum sibi finem justissimum evadent, bonorum studencium profectui et grato usui futuri; ad publicam tocius regni beatitudinem ac cleri et sacrosancte fidei certissimum incrementum. Et vestre dominaciones in multas etates valeant quam felicissime. *De Oxonia, sextodecimo die Januarii.*

Dominacionum vestrarum humillimi oratores, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

[1] *maximana* MS. [2] *excercia* ib.

215.

To the King.

Fol. 94 a.

Although the cares of state are, we know, very heavy, yet we believe you do not forget the advancement of virtue and divine learning; than which, indeed, nothing is more deserving of the interest of a glorious prince. History shows us that where the study of letters has been fostered by wise princes their government has prospered. We humbly ask, therefore, that, of your piety and justice, you will give orders that the desire of the late Duke of Gloucester, which, as we are told, was much in his mind up to the very time of his death, may be carried into effect; by giving us possession of the precious gift of books he intended for us. Thus shall you obtain a recompense in heaven; and grateful memory on earth, among us and those to come after us. Remember, we have always devoted our lives and studies to your wishes.

CHRISTIANISSIMO principi, Anglie et Francie regi illustrissimo et 1450.
domino nostro metuendissimo.

Quanquam, illustrissime princeps, circa publicas hujus regni curas vestram serenitatem plurimum habere negocii certi sumus, tamen ob singularem probitatem et sapienciam vestram, ad egregias virtutes et sacram erudicionem ampliandas pios vestre consideracionis oculos inter ceteros credimus vos retorquere. Nihil equidem glorioso principi, ad communem tocius sui regni salutem, divinius aut magnificencius obtingere potest. Nam si veteres contemplemur historias, ubicumque studia litterarum sub clemencia et tuicione principum floruerunt, illic simul imperium floruisse compertum est. Sed cum ad colendas virtutes augendasque doctrinas librorum cultus potissimum conferat, de libris quam maxime obtinendis celsitudini vestre impresenciarum[1] duximus perscribendum. Quoniam vero magnificus ille princeps, Humfridus, nuper dux Gloucestrie, vester carissimus avunculus ac vestre Universitatis, matris nostre, preter amplitudinem vestram singularissimus amator, parum antequam desinebat vivere, ex magna quadam et prestanti liberalitate sua, ad Dei laudem et perpetuum virtutis, sciencie, ac ortodoxe fidei incrementum, in nostre congregacionis domo, presenti numerosa plebe magistrorum regencium et non-regencium dicte Universitatis, nobis ore tenus omnium librorum suorum latini sermonis quam preciosam ac celeberrimam tribuit donacionem; eandem quoque mentem, usque dum mors eum ab hac luce rapuit, tanquam aliquid maximum in votis, ut docti reddimur, constantissime tenebat; quocirca, clementissime princeps, regiam

[1] *in presentiarum* MS.

majestatem[1] vestram obnixe et cum omni observancia exoramus, quatinus ea pietas, ea justicia vestra taliter in hac parte jubere ac providere dignetur, ut predicte munificencie memorati principis Humfridi fructum jam diu expectatum debite consequamur. Ex qua re non modo celestem vobis a Deo comparabitis mercedem, sed nobis eciam ac toti posteritati nostre magnum et immortale recordacionis ac benevolencie specimen ostendetis. Postremo, celsitudini vestre nos obsequentissime recommendamus; semper rogantes obtestantesque ut memineritis nos eos esse, qui omnem vitam atque studium vestre voluntati et arbitrio dedicavimus. Et vestram serenitatem, ad regni et studii nostri gloriam, diu et feliciter conservet Christus Deus. *De Oxonia, in nostre congregacionis domo, sextodecimo die Januarii.*

Vestre celsitudinis humillimi oratores, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium in eadem.

216.

To the Bishop of Ely.

We beg you to use the great influence your family-connexions and exalted position give you, to assist us in obtaining the books given to us by the late Duke of Gloucester. If we have written to others before you, it was only because we felt so sure of your sympathy from your formerly having been our Chancellor; and we hope you will not be offended.

1450. Reverendo in Christo patri et domino, domino Thome, Eliensi episcopo, nostro domino singularissimo.

Reverende in Christo pater et domine, humillima recommendacione premissa cum devotissimis nostris precibus apud Deum. Quanquam ab ineunte etate vestra, prestantissime pater, communem matrem, nostram Universitatem singulari benevolencia et pietate complexi fueritis; ex quo magnas grates agimus sublimitati vestre; id tamen in primis nobis gratum est, quod, cum procurator noster, magister Ricardus Luke, clericus vester, maxima vota nostra de libris obtinendis — quos dive memorie Humfridus, nuper dux Gloucestrie, nobis paullo antequam obiit mortem, divina quadam liberalitate concesserat—jamdudum vestre dominacioni explicuerit, propensum sibi favorem ac vultum ostendentes, caram in ea re diligenciam atque operam vestram dare, sicuti ab eodem didicimus, quam benignissimo animo promisistis. Unde illam humanitatem vestram immortalitate dignam ab imis precordiis nostris gratulatissimam habemus; hanc sacram in nos bene-

[1] *magistatem* MS.

volenciam vestram precipue in hoc arduo negocio nostro continuatum iri magnopere cupientes. Interea, cum hujus regni cunctis optimatibus aut clarissimis sanguine vel sancta necessitudine propinqui sitis, ut eos ad opem nobis in hac parte similiter conferendam, hortari et suadere dignemini vestram ex corde clemenciam deprecamur; tenentes firmiter, quod prestanti virtute et industria vestra hujus tam justi tamque probabilis et honesti desiderii nostri compotes fiemus. Quod si nobis vicio fortassis a vestra gravitate datum fuerit, quia, superiores litteras nostras in hac materia ceteris dominis transmittentes, vestre pretermisimus scribere dignitati; sane ineffabilem vobis gerentes confidenciam, memorantes vos olim placidissimum rectorem ac dominum nostrum extitisse, non opus prius fuisse scriptis dominacioni vestre putabamus. Quid multa? in longam etatem valeat benignissima paternitas vestra quam felicissime, nostri memor. *De Oxonia, vicesimo septimo die Februarii.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

Fol. 94 b.

NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, magistrum Gilbertum Kymer, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis ac magistros Ricardum Luke et Wistanum Browne, procuratores ejusdem, nomine predicte Universitatis, recepisse de religiosis viris Abbate et conventu de Ensham, Lincolniensis diocesis, tres libras et octo solidos, pro quadam annua pensione eidem Universitati pro terminis S. Nicholai et capitis jejunii quadragesime ultimis elapsis debita: De quibus quidem tribus libris et octo solidis fatemur nos, nomine predicte Universitatis fore solutos, et inde predictos religiosos viros acquietamus per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis antedicte presentibus est appensum. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, sextodecimo die Marcii, anno regni regis Henrici vicesimo nono*[1]. 1450.

217.

To the Duchess of Suffolk.

To the rigth and myghti princes, the duchesse of Suffolke, oure ryght especiall benefactrice and singuler lady. 1450.

RYGHT high and myghty princes, We youre humble oratours recommaunde us unto youre good ladyshippe an noble grace wyth the gostely suffrages of oure prayers, inioyng gretly[2] als wel of youre goude spede late in youre matyrs at London, as of youre commyng home and abydyng in this contre: whiche treuly beth un to us grete

[1] *xix*° MS. [2] *getly* ib.

glore and comfort. And for as much that hit hath plesed youre noble ladishippe but late ago to shew unto us grete liberalite and tendyrnes in sondre wyse, therfore we besech devotely almygthi god to thank yow; and we for oure deute, als ferforth as is possible unto us, thanke yowr heynesse al so wt alle the internes of oure hertes; Recommending us wt lowly spiryts into the gracyous continuaunce of youre rygth heyh and benigne ladishippe; as we shall dayly offre to god oure prayers and devocions for youre noble estate, good helth, welthe and prosperite: whiche oure lord graunte yow abundantly at the meke instance of oure prayers. *Writ at Oxford in oure sembly hous the* 6 *day of may.*

1450. **Testimonial letter for Master Thomas Wyldgrice.**

MEMORANDUM, quod septimo die Julii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo, sigillata fuit quedam littera testimonialis pro magistro Thoma Wyldgrice, sub forma qua scribitur pro magistro Sharburght septimo folio precedenti.

Two Indentures sealed.

1450. ITEM[1], eodem die sigillate fuerunt due indenture locacionis fundi cum gardino; super quo nuper edificata fuit aula 'Cathall'; et dimittitur sibi ad firmam pro quatuor solidis, et pro termino duodecim annorum.

Fol. 95 a. **Acquittance of Master John Evelyn, supervisor of the building of the new school of theology.**

1451. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Gilbertum Kymer, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Willelmum Ketyll, Thomam Balsall, procuratores dicte Universitatis, et cetum unanimem magistrorum regencium in eadem remisisse, relaxasse et omnino, pro nobis et successoribus nostris, in perpetuum quietum clamasse magistro Johanni Evelyn, alteri supravisorum fabrice novarum scolarum sacre theologie Oxonie, omnimodas acciones reales et personales, querelas, calumnias, sectas et demandas, cujuscunque fuerint nature, accionis vel condicionis, nobis et dicte Universitati quovismodo competentes a principio mundi usque in diem confeccionis presencium, racione supervisionis predicte fabrice. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum*

[1] This *memorandum* is crossed out in the MS., and on the margin is written the word *vacat*.

Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, ultimo die Octobris, annis Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo primo, regnique regis Henrici, sexti post conquestum, tricesimo.

Ista acquietancia est sigillata die et anno supradictis pro magistro Johanne Evelyn.

Acquittance of Master John Cowper.

ALIA acquietancia sub eadem forma sigillabatur pro magistro Roberto Cowper, in festo S. Edmundi regis, anno Domini suprascripto. 1451.

Indenture of agreement between the University and All Souls' College for lease of tenement in Catstreet.

Fol. 95 b.

HEC indentura, facta inter magistros Gilbertum Kymer, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Willelmum Ketyll et Thomam Balsall, procuratores dicte Universitatis, cetumque unanimem magistrorum regencium in eadem, ex parte una, et magistrum Willelmum Kele, custodem collegii animarum omnium fidelium defunctorum in Oxonia et ejusdem loci socios, ex altera parte, testatur, quod prefatus Cancellarius, procuratores et cetus magistrorum concesserunt, tradiderunt et ad firmam dimiserunt prefatis custodi et sociis totum illum fundum dicte Universitatis, cum gardino et suis pertinenciis, in vico de '*Catstret*' in parochia Beate Marie Virginis Oxonie, situatum inter tenementum Abbatis et conventus de Eynesham ex parte boreali[1], et tenementum dicte ecclesie Beate Marie ex parte australi, habendum et tenendum predictum fundum cum gardino et suis pertinenciis prefatis custodi et sociis et eorum successoribus, a festo S. Michaelis Archangeli proxime futuro post datum presencium usque ad finem termini septem annorum proxime ex tunc sequencium et plenarie completorum: reddendo inde annuatim prefatis Cancellario, procuratoribus, [et][2] cetui magistrorum et eorum successoribus, qui pro tempore fuerint, quatuor solidos bone et legalis monete Anglie, ad quatuor anni terminos in Oxonia usuales. Et si contingat predictam firmam quatuor solidorum a retro fore non solutam ad aliquem terminum quo solvi debeat, in parte vel in toto, aut per quindecim dies post hujusmodi terminum; ex tunc bene liceat prefatis Cancellario, procuratoribus [et][2] cetui magistrorum et eorum successoribus in predicto fundo cum gardino et suis pertinenciis distringere, et districciones ibidem inventas licite asportare, abducere, effugare et penes se retinere, quousque de tota predicta firma cum omnibus inde arreragiis, si que fuerint, sibi fuerit[3] plenarie satisfactum. Et si sufficiens districcio ibidem inveniri non 1451.

[1] *boriali* MS. [2] *et* omitted ib. [3] *fuerint* ib.

poterit, aut si contingat prefatum Cancellarium, procuratores [et] cetum magistrorum vel eorum successores, aut quemcunque alium edificare in dicto fundo, vel si contingat predictum Gilbertum, nunc Cancellarium, habere dictum fundum cum gardino et suis pertinenciis ex dimissione Universitatis predicte ad certum terminum sibi et assignatis suis, aut ex dono dicte Universitatis sibi et assignatis suis in perpetuum; ex tunc bene liceat prefatis Cancellario, procuratoribus [et] cetui magistrorum et eorum successoribus in predictum fundum cum gardino et suis pertinenciis reintrare, et in manus suas retrahere, ac
Fol. 96 a. predictum custodem et socios eorumque successores inde totaliter expellere, presenti dimissione non obstante; allocando eisdem custodi et sociis ac eorum successoribus costagia sua, si que fecerint, in dicto fundo et gardino durante termino predicto. Et prefatus Cancellarius, procuratores, cetusque magistrorum et eorum successores predictum fundum cum gardino et suis pertinenciis prefatis custodi et sociis ac eorum successoribus, durante dicto termino, sub forma et condicione premissis, contra omnes gentes warantizabunt per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium partes predicte alternatim sua sigilla apposuerunt. *Datum in ecclesia Beate Marie Oxonie, sextodecimo die Decembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo.*

Indentura de Tyngewyks Inne.

1451. Hec indentura, facta inter magistrum Gilbertum Kymer, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, magistros Willelmum Ketyll et Thomam Balsall, procuratores dicte Universitatis, cetumque unanimem magistrorum regencium et non-regencium, ex parte una, et Willelmum Kele, custodem collegii animarum omnium fidelium defunctorum de Oxonia, ac socios ejusdem et eorum successores, ex parte altera, testatur, quod prefatus Cancellarius, procuratores, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium dederunt, concesserunt et hac presente carta sua confirmaverunt, pro se et successoribus suis in perpetuum [1], prefatis custodi, sociis et successoribus suis antedictis unum tenementum cum suis pertinenciis in Oxonia, nuper vocatum '*Tyngewyke's Inne*,' situatum in vico de '*Catestrete*' in parochia Beate Marie Virginis Oxonie; inter tenementum hospitalis S. Johannis Oxonie ex parte australi et curiam que vocatur '*Maryolecourt*' ex parte boreali; habendum et tenendum predictum tenementum, cum suis pertinenciis prefatis custodi, sociis et successoribus suis in perpetuum: reddendo inde annuatim prefatis Cancellario, procuratoribus [et] cetui magistrorum regencium et non-regencium et eorum successoribus in per-

[1] *pro se et successoribus suis in perpetuum*, these words are repeated in the MS.

petuum, tredecim[1] solidos et quatuor denarios sterlingorum, in festo Annunciacionis Beate Marie Virginis. Et si contingat dictum redditum a retro fore non solutum, infra mensem post tempus solucionis superius memoratum, ex tunc bene liceat prefatis Cancellario, procuratoribus cetuique magistrorum regencium et non-regencium et eorum successoribus, tam in predicto fundo quam in singulis tenementis ejusdem collegii in comitatu Oxoniensi distringere, et districciones sibi captas penes se asportare, abducere et retinere, quousque idem redditus cum arreragiis plenarie fuerit satisfactus[2]. Et nos, predictus Cancellarius, procuratores cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium et successores nostri, pro nobis et successoribus nostris in perpetuum, predictum fundum cum suis pertinenciis predictis custodi, sociis et eorum successoribus contra omnes gentes warantizabimus in perpetuum. In cujus rei testimonium uni parti hujus indenture, penes prefatum custodem, socios et successores suos remanenti, predicti Cancellarius, procuratores cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium sigillum suum commune apposuerunt; alteri vero parti ejusdem indenture, penes predictum Cancellarium, procuratores cetumque magistrorum regencium et non-regencium remanenti, predicti custos et socii sigillum suum commune apposuerunt. *Datum Oxonie, tricesimo primo die Marcii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo.*

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

MEMORANDUM, quod eodem anno et die sigillata est una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Oseney, secundum formam consuetam in isto registro registratam prius. 1451.

Lease of Bedyl-Hall[3].

Fol. 96 b.

SCIANT presentes et futuri quod nos, Gilbertus Kymer, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, Willelmus Ketyll et Thomas Balsall, procuratores dicte Universitatis, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium in eadem dedimus et concessimus, et hac presenti carta nostra confirmavimus Johanni Carpenter, clerico, totum illud tenementum nostrum cum gardinis vocatum '*Bedyllhall*,' situatum in parochia Beate Marie Virginis Oxonie in vico vocato '*Shydyherde*' ex parte occidentali, et inter ortum collegii de '*Oryell*' ex parte australi, et tenementum ejusdem collegii, vulgariter vocatum '*Seynt* 1451.

[1] *tresdecim* MS. [2] *satisfactum* ib. [3] This lease occurs in duplicate in the MS., the second copy being on fol. 97 a, but in the latter the names of the proctors are John Ekys and Thomas Reynald, and the date is May 24.

Mary Hall,' ex parte boreali, et tenementum pertinens ecclesie Beate Marie ex parte orientali; habendum et tenendum dictum tenementum vocatum '*Bedyllhall,*' cum gardinis et singulis suis pertinenciis prefato Johanni Carpenter et suis assignatis in perpetuum de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per servicia inde debita et de jure consueta. Et nos vero, prefati Gilbertus, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, Johannes et Thomas, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium et non-regencium et successores nostri predictum tenementum, cum gardinis et suis omnibus et singulis quovismodo ad prefatum tenementum pertinentibus, servicio capitali domino feodi illius tantummodo excepto, acquietabimus et in perpetuum defendemus. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dicte Universitatis huic presenti carte nostre apposuimus; his testibus; Ricardo Spragote, Majore ville Oxoniensis; Roberto Sadelar, Thoma Wytheke, Roberto at Wode, aldermannis; Thoma Berton et Johanne Doll ballivis dicte ville. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, primo die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo.*

Testimonial letter for Master John Germyn.

1452. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Gilbertus Kymer, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in Domino sempiternam: Cum litterarum studia, que sola verum virtutis iter demonstrare et vicia compescere creduntur—cum in iis honestum ipsum et agitacio quedam mentis ac melioris vite cultus querantur, virtutem ad capessendam, ad quam nunquam nisi arduo et laborioso calle pertingitur—commoda pociora a summis sapientibus censeantur; hos viros, qui summam operam curamque claris scienciis ac virtutibus in colendis posuerunt, veris efferre laudibus, nobis, qui virtutis et litterarum studia profitemur, non indignum visum est: quippe dum benemerentibus honores virtutum premia largiuntur, ceteris ad virtutum opera majora excitamina preparantur. Hec igitur iisque similia rite considerantes, necnon et fructum ecclesiasticum non modicum prestolantes, per has nostras litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis in Christo confrater, magister Johannes Germyn, sacre theologie professor, Exoniensis diocesis, vir singulari mentis prestans acumine, conversacionis conspicuus venustate, cujus honor nobis clarus est clarusque status, quique litterarum studia ita complexus est, adeo quoque comiter et humane nobiscum diuturnam vitam ac suo gradui
Fol. 97 a. conformem deduxit, quod ad dictum doctoratus apicem benemeritus

est acceptus, et verum laudis testimonium consecutus. Ut igitur testificacionis hujus gracia omnium, quorum penes se interest, propensiorem consequatur favoris effectum, has testimoniales litteras communi Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo secundo, mensis Aprilis die vicesimo quarto.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

VICESIMO sexto die Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo secundo, sigillata est una acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Eynesham, pro annua pensione, sub forma antiquitus consueta. 1452.

218.

To Master J. Somerset.

Our mother, the University, rejoices that she has given birth to a son at once so illustrious and so grateful; and thanks you for your splendid gift of Alexander Neckham 'de naturis rerum'; *which will remain a bright and imperishable memorial of your name amongst us for ever. We hope your benevolent disposition towards us will continue.*

VENERABILI et egregio viro magistro J. Somerseth. 1452.

Venerabilis et egregie doctor, cui, sui pro nobili benevolencia, tenemur reddere vices gratas in his celi suburbiis, bonorum operum per exercicium sic promereri ut finaliter in equam mercem [1] Deus prebeat semet ipsum. Gaudet nempe mater nostra Universitas se tam nobilem et gratum filium parturire, suisque ex uberibus sub juventutis floribus nutrivisse; qui humaniter respexit et gratuite ubera predulcia que sugebat, mittendo eidem sue matri tam insigne memoriale, videlicet librum Alexandri Nekham '*de naturis rerum*'; quo dono prefulgida nominis vestri lucerna nostre Universitatis inoccidua memoria registrata precordiis existet superposita, ad illuminacionem gencium in his seculis et futuris. Pro quo et nos unanimiter tributa persolvimus graciarum, gaudentes quod grata et pia vestra precordia illius de fontali dulcedine, que est fons vivus, ignis, caritas et spiritualis [2] unccio, sic celitus degustarunt, ut, ad divine laudis extollenciam augmentumque studii salutaris, honor Dei regnique decor felicius augeatur. Speramus insuper de continuacione vestre benevolencie nobis et Universitati nostre in futurum [adhiberi] [3] ad Dei gloriam

[1] *mercedem?* [2] *spiritalis* MS. [3] This word is as it occurs in the MS., and, apparently, should be omitted.

et vestri meritum sempiternum. Et statum vestrum de bono semper in melius prosperari faciat virtus et bonitas Spiritus sancti. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo, Junii die duodecimo.*

219.

Fol. 97 b. **To the Archbishop of Canterbury[1], in behalf of Master William Moreton.**

Not only would it be displeasing to you, but it would be wrong and a gross impropriety, if we should recommend to you an unworthy person; But we with confidence solicit your favourable acceptance of Master William Moreton, whose character and attainments we well know, by experience both of his private and official life in the University.

1452. Reverendissimo in Christo patri recommendaciones, observancias et honores. Inter omnes filios, quos nostra mater alma Universitas propter merita, et bonorum studiorum et virtutum, in dignos honores attollit, maxime illos preferre cupimus, qui fideles officio, qui morum honestate, qui presertim aut scienciarum aut facultatum studiis insudantes apud nos probati existant. Si quidem alios quosquam dignitati vestre, colendissime presul, commendare presumimus, preter displicenciam vestre paternitatis, quam incurrere nolumus, non nimiam[2] certe mereremur culpam; et, quod Deo propicio evitabimus, intolerabile improperium. Placeat ergo dominacioni vestre, reverende in Christo pontifex, approbatum dilectumque satis apud nos virum, magistrum Willelmum Moreton gracius inspicere, intendere scilicet et acceptare; ut quem nos singuli secundum nostre dileccionis modum amplectimur, vestra benignitas, que satis potest, eciam velit considerare profecto non peregrinum, sed vestra natum in diocesi, insuper et promotum, quod persone merito attribuimus. Preterea, quasi ab ineunte etate utpote philosophie lactatum uberibus, postquam ejus industriam, studium, probitatem et in scolasticis actibus ac in agendis rebus providenciam experti sumus, non inutile nobis visum erat ad procuratoris officium simul et dignitatem eundem promovere. Cujus equidem officii quantam egerit curam libenter adderemus, si non sermonis obviaret prolixitas. Deinde vero et scienciarum et bone vite merito proficientem experti, sacre theologie approbavimus nuperrime doctorem; hunc ergo in theologia sacra professorem, nostra quidem estimacione dignum consiliis principum, tanto patri commendamus; et quod vestre reverencie non plene nostris innotescit litteris, supplicamus votis ut, si quid nostra valeat apud tantum archi-

[1] The name of the Archbishoprick does not occur in the MS., but there is no doubt how it should be supplied.

[2] *minimam*?

presulem intercessio, veraciter illud senciat devocio deprecantis. Et in Christo valeat, prosperetur ac floreat vita, virtus dominacioque vestra. *Ab Oxonia in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo nono die Octobris.* Congregacio magistrorum regencium in Oxoniensi studio.

The demise of 'Bedyllhall' to Master John Carpenter sealed by the University.

MEMORANDUM, quod decimo die Novembris sigillata erat carta Johannis Carpenter episcopi Wigornensis, secundum formam prius scriptam, tali clausi excepta '*servitio capitalis domini feodi illius tantummodo excepto.*' 1452.

Release of executors of Robert Coupere, one of the supervisors of the building of the school of theology.

NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Gylbertum Kymer, in medicina doctorem, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxonie, Johannem Ekys et Willelmum Mogys, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, cetumque unanimem magistrorum regencium in eadem remisisse, relaxasse et omnino pro nobis et successoribus nostris in perpetuum quietum clamasse Jacobo Letuce et Johanni Dryell, clericis, executoribus Roberti Coupere clerici, quondam supervisoris fabrice novarum scolarum sacre theologie Oxonie, omnimodas acciones, querelas, sectas et demandas, cujuscunque fuerint nature, accionis vel condicionis, nobis et predicte Universitati quovismodo competentes, racione recepcionis pecuniarum ad dictas scolas pertinencium et dispensacionis earundem per dictum Robertum, a principio mundi usque in diem confeccionis presencium. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis presentibus est appensum. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, undecimo die Novembris, anno regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo primo.* 1452.

Appointment of attorney, to give seisin of 'Bedyllhall' to Master John Carpenter.

NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Gylbertum Kymer, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Johannem Ekys et Thomam Reynold, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, cetumque unanimem magistrorum regencium et non-regencium in eadem, attornasse et deputasse et loco nostro posuisse dilectum nobis in Christo Johannem Smyth, clericum, nostrum verum attornatum ad deliberandum, vice et nomine nostro, Johanni Carpenter, clerico, plenam et pacificam 1451.

possessionem et seisinam in et de toto illo tenemento cum gardinis vocato '*Bedyllhall*,' situato in parochia Beate Marie Virginis Oxonie, in vico vocato '*Schideherde*' ex parte occidentali, et inter ortum collegii de '*Oriell*,' ex parte australi, et tenementum ejusdem collegii vulgariter nuncupatum '*Seynt Mary Hall*' ex parte boreali, et tenementum pertinens ecclesie Beate Marie ex parte orientali; habendum et tenendum eidem Johanni Carpenter, heredibus et assignatis suis, secundum vim, formam et effectum carte nostre eidem inde confecte;
Fol. 98 a. ratum et gratum habentes et habituri totum et quicquid prefatus attornatus noster fecerit vice et nomine nostro in deliberacione seisine predicte. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum commune dicte Universitatis presentibus apposuimus, his testibus, Ricardo Spragot, Majore ville Oxonie; Roberto Sadler, Thoma Wytheke, Roberto Attwode, aldermannis; Thoma Bertone et Johanne Doll, ballivis dicte ville; et aliis. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo quarto die Maii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo*[1].

Acquittances of Eynsham and Oseney Abbeys.

1452. MEMORANDUM, quod tali die, scilicet vicesimo octavo die mensis Novembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo primo[2], sigillata erat acquietancia pro Abbate de Enysham, ut patet inferius; Noverint universi per presentes, nos, Gilbertum Kymer, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, et magistros Johannem Ekys [et][3] Willelmum Mogys, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Enisham in Comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos sterlingorum, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo octavo die mensis Novembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo primo.*

Memorandum, quod tercio decimo die mensis Decembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo primo[4], sigillata erat acquietancia pro Abbatia de Oseney.

[1] This document should, it seems, follow on fol. 97 a.

[2] and [4] The date in both these cases is inconsistent with the regnal year, which is the 31st of Henry VI, i.e. 1452. But it will be noticed that the words *sigillata erat* perhaps indicate that the acquittance was sealed then, and only formally entered in the register now; for no acquittance of Eynsham for the year 1451 occurs.

[3] *et* omitted in MS.

Noverint universi per presentes, nos, Gilbertum Kymer, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Johannem Ekys et Willelmum Mogys, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Oseney in Comitatu Oxoniensi viginti sex solidos octo denarios, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, tercio decimo die Decembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo primo.*

Eodem die littera destinata Magistro Johanni Somerseth.

220.

To Master John Somerset.

Your gift of books proves your zeal for learning, and the beautiful silken vestments embroidered with gold, now presented by you, are an offering such as an only son might make to his mother. Be not offended that we call you a son, though the gravity of your character and the number of your years be rather those of a father. This munificence is no less than an inspiration. We have no merits to correspond, and can find no words fit to express our sense of your generosity.

LARGISSIMAM in nobis tue munificencie donacionem, O doctor 1452.
egregie, ne plus laudare mirarique[1] possumus, ea presertim racione qua te matri nostre filium amantissimum contemplamur. Nec filium nuncupari tua vereatur serenitas, tametsi moribus grandevum etate dierumque cursu patrem pocius quam filium appellari deceat. Profecto tum nostre matris unigenitum induisti, cum illam tue mentis speciem splendor supernus illuxerat, ut nostram genetricem tantis decrevisses honoribus decorandam, quantis eam tuis dignam muneribus duxeras eternaliter permansuram. O bonum per omnia virum! quem virtutis amatorem affectus commendat, studii fervorem librorum collacio manifestat, atque itidem, ne laudibus hominum videatur extolli, Ejus a quo bonum omne fontaliter acceperat, Dei cultum solemniter vestitus[2] sericis deauratisque indutum ampliavit. Et quid nos tantilli, laudis in tue cumulum innateque probitatis largicionem, dignum persolvere valemus? Equidem, si verum fateamur, non aliquid nostris ex meritis, quod tuum nobis inflecteret animum, precessit; sed tanquam ignotum notum te feceras, cum nos matremque nostram amplissimis indebitisque donariis condecorare suscepisti.

[1] *qua* MS. [2] *vestibus*?

Qua in re plausum suspirio conjungimus, ut quod voluntatis obsequio possemus verbis quidem explicare nequimus. Optamus igitur tue pietatis amplitudinem, ut quod fida mente votis exequimur lacius[1] mentis aviditati quam verborum tenuitati indicetur. Sic nos et matrem nostram censebis indemnes, quum te utriusque collectorem discretoremve fuerimus assecuti. At ne videatur latere erga nos tue providencie desiderium, prenobilis vir magister W. Kele, custos collegii animarum omnium fidelium defunctorum, quem legatum tuum[2] fide dignum accepimus, ita nobis te tuaque placita[3] commendaverat, ut incredibili nos gaudio faceret esse letatos. Hec eapropter continuum . . .[4] favoris intuitum singulariter expetentes, oratoria prece Deum veneramur ac petimus, quemadmodum suscepte voluntatis prebuerat incitamentum, sic et impenso muneri sine fine eternum largiatur imperium. *Datum ut supra.*

Fol. 98 b. **The ancient form[5] of citation of persons accused of embezzlement of funds of the Chests.**

Satis nobis dilecte, salutem. Cum circa singulas nostre matris Universitatis occupaciones oculum vigilanciorem apposuerimus, quomodo veneratissimus saluberrimusve ipsius status felicitate valeat perpetuari quam plurimis consuetudinum statutorumque generibus, inter omnes compellimur nostrarum cistarum indemnitatem annuatim observare. Quum vero te ciste '*Chicheley*' appellate custodiam noverimus acceptasse, sicuti ex indenturis inde confectis, non paucis annis transactis, evidentissime apparet, nec hucusque raciocinium vel[6] deliberacionem inde reddideris; ea propter estimamus prefatam cistam intolerabile pati detrimentum. Nos igitur, pristinum statum ac ejusdem reformacionem cupientes, singulos, quorum interest in hac parte, undecimo die mensis Aprilis, proxime post datum presencium futuri, coram nobis in nostre congregacionis domo Oxonie, ex parte nostre Universitatis objiciendis in dicto negocio responsuros, decrevimus accersiri. Te insuper exhortamur, ac virtute juramenti Universitati nostre prestiti, primo, secundo ac tercio peremptorie monemus ac citamus, quatinus loco ac die prenotatis nobis, de et super articulis sanam ac tutam prefate ciste custodiam concernentibus, in propria persona te conferas responsurum; ulterius facturus et recepturus quod justicia in ea parte suadebit. Quod si, uti te decet, curaveris adimplere, rem sane tibi necessariam et nobis gratam perficies. Ac tue commoditati, quantum cum equitate poterimus, studebimus

[1] *satius . . . aviditate . . . tenuitate*? [2] The words *legatum tuum* are probably what is intended, but the MS. is much confused, and the whole letter unusually troublesome. [3] *placide* MS. [4] A word obliterated in MS. [5] Cf. p. 318, line 7. [6] *ve* MS.

proficere: sin autem, ad acriora, ac tibi magis molesta, quanquam juridica, remedia recurrere oportet. Quid multa? animadvertas rei seriem; ast sana consciencia vivas per secula. *Datum ut supra*[1] *vicesimo Marcii.*

Notandum, quod forma istius littere duobus magistris mittitur, et ideo non indiget duplici scriptura.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

VICESIMO secundo die mensis Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo secundo, sigillata est una acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Enysham pro annua pensione, in forma antiquitus usitata. 1452.

[2] Annus Domini millesimus quadringentesimus quinquagesimus tercius.

Citation of Master Richard Base to appear at S. Mary's church and give account of his guardianship.

CUM saluberrimi status nostre matris honorem pre mentis oculos habemus, nec tantum perpendamus ejus gloriam quantum eam temporalibus ampliandam summopere cupiamus, idque fieri non posse si circa custodiam cistarum remissiori quadam supervisione torpeamus; nos igitur, diligenciam, ut oportet, haud segni provisione facientes, reperimus cistas intolerabile pati dispendium, per insufficienciam caucionum inconsulte non minus quam imprudenter impigneratarum. Quamobrem imminenti ruine finem abdicare cupientes, hos omnes, quorum pigneribus hujuscemodi ciste graviter damnificantur, vocari citarique fecimus; teque insuper, magistrum Ricardum Base, virtute juramenti Universitati nostre prestiti, primo, secundo, ac tercio peremptorie monemus ac citamus, ut compareas coram nobis personaliter sexto decimo die mensis Junii, ad satisfaciendum cistis, pro caucionibus per te impigneratis, virtute quarum nostre ciste pre ceteris damna luunt. Sique nostris jussionibus obtemperare volueris, gratum te poterimus habere, salvo quod juris est ex omni parte: sin autem aliud mente tractaveris, valebimus quod pertulisse nimio terrore tedebit. Recollige conscripta et bene prosperare. *Datum &c. quarto die Maii.*

Acquittance for 500 marks received from the executors of Cardinal Beaufort.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis et procuratores ejusdem, cetumque unanimem magistrorum 1452.

[1] To what document this refers does not appear; the last preceding day being Dec. 13. The document to which reference is made is probably one of those not entered in this register. [2] This is the only occasion on which a separate notice is made of the date.

in eadem recepisse et habuisse, ad usum fabrice et edificii nostrarum novarum scolarum juxta collegium Exoniense situatarum, de magistro Gilberto Kymer et Elia Holcote quingentas marcas, nobis per executores testamenti recolende memorie domini Henrici, nuper Cardinalis Anglie, ad edificacionem earumdem scolarum datas et assignatas: De quibus quidem quingentis marcis fatemur nos plene solutos, dictosque Gilbertum et Eliam quietos per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune nostre Universitatis presentibus apposuimus. *Datum quarto die Maii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo primo.*

Fol. 99 a.

Appointment of Seneschall.

All members of holy mother Church are hereby informed that we, the Chancellor, proctors, and masters of the University, having read and examined the letter sent to John Norys, Esquire, of the King's body guard; by which letter he is appointed to the office of Seneschall, do hereby ratify and confirm the same, and grant him a salary of four marks a year, payable from the perquisites of his court, but not from the fines for violation of the assize of bread, wine, and ale, on the four quarter days; saving always our privileges, liberties, customs, and statutes; which, on his admission to office, he shall be sworn to observe.

1452. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Gilbertus Kymer medicine doctor, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, Johannes Yong, Johannes Seymour, procuratores ejusdem, cetusque unanimis magistrorum in eadem salutem in Domino sempiternam. Noveritis nos, prefatos Cancellarium, procuratores et Universitatem, legisse et inspexisse litteras preclarissimi viri, magistri Gilberti Kymer, Cancellarii Universitatis nostre antedicte, venerabili viro Johanni Norys, ad corpus domini nostri regis armigero, concessas in hec verba, '*Sciant presentes et futuri quod nos, Gilbertus Kymer, in medicina doctor, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie, de provida discrecione et circumspeccione venerabilis viri Johannis Norys, ad corpus domini nostri regis armigeri, ad plenum confidentes, ordinavimus, deputavimus et fecimus eundem Johannem Norys nostrum et successorum nostrorum locum tenentem et senescallum in dicta Universitate et ejus precinctu; ad curias ibidem tenendas, secundum leges regni Anglie, et cetera faciendum et exercendum, secundum dictas leges, per se vel deputatum suum, que ad dictum pertinent officium; salvis semper jurisdictione nostra et successorum nostrorum, una et privilegiis, libertatibus et consuetudinibus magistrorum et scolarium et personarum eisdem gaudere debentium; habendum et tenendum prefatum officium eidem Johanni Norys ad ter-*

minum vite sue, recipiendo annuatim, pro dicti officii execucione, prout alii pro eadem recipere consueverunt.' In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus fecimus apponi. Datum in Universitate Oxoniensi, quarto die mensis Marcii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo primo. Quas litteras, pro nobis et successoribus nostris confirmavimus, et ratificavimus, premissis jurisdictione et juribus Cancellarii nostre Universitatis, successorumque suorum, magistrorum, scolarium et personarum predictarum, in omnibus semper salvis; singulariter confidentes, quod predictus Johannes Norys in execucione sui dicti officii, ac in aliis maxima et nonnulla commoda faciet Universitati: unde concessimus per presentes prefato Johanni Norys, pro laboribus execucionis dicti officii, per eum et suum deputatum impendendis, pensionem quatuor marcarum, proveniencium de perquisitis curiarum, ut prefertur, per ipsum et suum deputatum tenendarum; que de amerciamentis pro fraccione assaie et assise panis vini et cervisie non provenerint: habendum et tenendum eidem Johanni Nory, cum dicto officio, prefatam pensionem quatuor marcarum, a nobis et successoribus nostris, in forma premissa ad quatuor anni terminos principales, ad terminum vite sue per equales portiones persolvendam: proviso semper, quod nostre Universitatis privilegia, libertates, consuetudines et statuta continue observet, et in admissione sui ad dictum officium se ea juret taliter observaturum. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune nostre Universitatis presentibus apposuimus. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, sexto die Maii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo primo.*

Testimonial letter for Master John Ludlow.

MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo tercio die Octobris, existentibus Cancellario et procuratoribus magistro Georgio Nevyll, Johanne Yong et Johanne Seymour, sigillata fuit littera, sub forma antiquitus usitata, que dicitur testimonialis, pro magistro Johanne Ludlow, in facultate sacre theologie professore. 1452.

Citation of Master John Spekyntone.

MEMORANDUM, de littera citatoria transmissa magistro Johanni Spekyntone sub forma antiquitus usitata, septimo die mensis Novembris. 1452.

Acquittance of Master John Norlond.

EODEM die sigillata erat acquietancia pro magistro Johanne Norlond. 1452.

Acquittance of Abbey of Eynsham—in arrears.

1453. MEMORANDUM, quod quinto decimo die mensis Novembris sigillate erant due acquietancie pro Abbate et conventu de Eynysham, una pro anno tricesimo secundo regni regis Henrici sexti, et alia pro anno septimo [1] ejusdem regis.

Citation of Master John Nyman.

1453. MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo quarto die mensis Decembris transmissa est littera citatoria pro magistro Johanne Nyman, sub forma antiquitus usitata, que sic incipit '*satis nobis*,' *&c.*[2]

Fol. 99 b.

Citation of Master Towne.

1453. GEORGIUS Nevyll, in artibus magister, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, Johannes Yonge et Johannes Seymour, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem Magistro Willelmo Towne, sacre pagine professori, salutem: Te, tenore presentium, citamus et mandamus, quod compareas coram nobis personaliter, in nostre congregacionis domo in ecclesia parochiali Beate Marie Virginis dicte Universitatis, in crastino S. Hilarii proximo futuri; ad respondendum certis articulis meram correccionem anime tue concernentibus. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, nostro sub communi sigillo, septimo decimo die Decembris.*

221.

To the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Your name has ever been held in high honour by us; and now your aid in obtaining for us the books promised by the late Duke of Gloucester will raise it to a place second only to his own. It is a lamentable thing that the books should have been dispersed and be in private hands unconnected with us. We pray that you will advise us, and help us to get possession of them, and thereby do us the greatest service possible, and gain for yourself a glorious reputation.

1453. CUM semper egregiam ac pergratam vestri nominis famam, reverendissime pater, honore quo decuit animo contexerimus, ea nunc res est, —in laudum ac meritorum titulos animos flectat oportet,—qua publice

[1] It is unlikely that the arrears should have been so long left unpaid; but there is not any ambiguity in the writing, *septimo* being written at length, and not in numerals in MS.

[2] See above, fol. 98 b.

cure necessitudinem librorum collacione privata[1] potenciorem[2] esse censuistis, quorum scripta et maximo in precio nobis sunt et voluptati non modice legentibus cedunt. Quid enim laudabilius honestiusve cogitari possit, quam jam vos potissimum iis rebus operam impendere, ex qua optimi principis Humfridi fama revirescat. Perpulchra profecto res est et eximia laude digna, qua et vivos colimus et in mortuorum memoriam accimur et incendimur. Et quia paternitatem vestram apud nos optatissima decoravit liberalitas, ex sperata nobis continuacione, uti alterius Humfredi, curabimus nomina ac gloriam celebrari debere. Vos igitur inter ceteros nostre etatis viros, post ducem memoratu dignum, singularius amplecti decrevimus, ut intimiore favoris contuitu deflendam nostre matris injuriam solita quadam pietate remediare curetis. Nam libros non admodum paucos, ex principis justo legati titulo, externorum manibus hucusque dispersos cogitatu dolendo pensamus: provida tamen sagaxque vestre paternitatis cura optatum nobis exitum imminentis ruine satis abunde preparatum[3] adducet, si quod in iis sanum consilium nobis duxeritis consequendum. Qua[4] credimus opera nihil mortalium nostre reipublice ornacius preferendum nec ad vestre nominis summum glorie cumulum aliquid optacius unquam fuisse concessum. *Scripta est hec littera domino Thome, episcopo Bathoniensi et Wellensi*[5] *septimo decimo die mensis Decembris.*

Testimonial letter for Master Thomas Balsall.

MEMORANDUM, quod undecimo die Aprilis, eisdem existentibus Cancellario et procuratoribus, sigillata erat quedam littera testimonialis pro magistro Thoma Balsall sub forma antiqua, que sic incipit, '*Universis sancte matris,*' *&c.* 1453.

222.

The vicar of S. Mary Redcliffe in Bristol cleared of a libellous charge. Fol. 100 a.

To All cristenmen to wohom thys present letres shall comm, and in especiall to worschyfull Syeres, Mayre, Sherrif and cominalte of Bristowe, Thomas Sawnders, doctour of decres, Commissarie generall in the Universite of Oxonforde of master George Nevell, Chauncellere of the saide Universite; John Yong, John Saymur, procurators, and all the Regentes of the same Universite, gretyng in oure lord god. 1453.

[1] *private* MS. [2] Or possibly *potiorem*; but this letter, which is in the same hand as letters 204–207, is, as they are, clearly the work of a careless or ignorant scribe. [3] *perpreatum* MS. [4] *Quo* ib. [5] *episcopo* repeated after *Wellensi* ib.

ffor as much as we late tyme passed wer informyed of a sediciose lettyr, in special for on clause, send from a yong scolare beyng wyth us in the Universite of Oxonford, called John Mede, concernyng the person of oure right welbeloved in criste master Nicholas Pyttes, vicarie of Redcleffe in Bristowe; by the which lettur, after publyshid bitwene certayne of your comminalte, ther Rose a sclander importable unto the seid master nicholas; We of grete charite mevyd, wyllyng the ease of all parties, to whom thys mater perteynys, made as dew serch and inquisicion as we cewed in this behalfe; makyng to be called byfor us the personys that were notarily knowyn first publisheris of the seide sclandirful noysyng; and assignyd to them a terme probatiffe; in the which terme we, seyng no preffe utterly had in that party, consideryng also the sadde and vertuose conversacione of the saide master Nicholas, ever byfor this tyme knowyn as a mong us, admittyd the said master Nicholas to hys purgacione; the which was had befor us by right worshipfull and well avised personys, as h^t will appere by the letteris testimoniall of the same. Wherfor we, seyng the innocencei of the said master Nicholas, right hertely pray you that, after youre grete sadnes and avised discrecion, wold make this oure writyng and testimony be publyshed ther, and unto them of ȝoure right worshipfull comminalte; wher ye, after ȝour grete discrecion, suppose hys worship and fame in this mater be hurt: tristyng that this oure writyng shall be to more declaracione of hys troweth and innocencie in this mater than any evidens by for this tyme had to his sclandyr or repreff; and yef ye, as oure trust ys, wyll this oure desire performe, ye shall right hertly please us, and cause us in lyk wyse to do for any of you, or of youre comminalte, at your[1] request or desyre. *Yeven undyr our seele in oure seamble at oxonforde, the xviij day of januari The yere of oure lorde mccccliij.*

Scriptum est hec littera pro magistro Nicholao Pyttys ad declaracionem bone fame sue.

Testimonial letter for Master T. Phyppes.

1453. MEMORANDUM, quod undevicesimo die Februarii sigillata fuerat una littera testimonialis pro magistro T. Phyppes, anno gracie millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo tercio, sub forma antiquitus usitata.

Acquittance of John Dolle, book-binder, on payment made for pledges sold by him for the University.

1453. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevyll, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Johannem Yong et Johannem Saymur, pro-

[1] *our* MS.

curatores ejusdem, cetumque unanimem magistrorum regencium in eadem, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Johanne Dolle, de Oxonia, Bokebyndere, quatuor libras septem solidos et quatuor denarios sterlingorum, in plenam solucionem caucionum pertinencium ciste de Gyldeford sibi expositarum per Universitatem predictam: De quibus quidem quatuor libris septem solidis quatuor denariis fatemur nobis fore fideliter solutum, dictumque Johannem Dolle heredes et executores suos inde quietos per presentes sigillo communi dicte Universitatis. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, sexto decimo*[1] *die Februarii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo secundo.*

223.

To Edmund Reed, Esquire. Fol. 100 b.

We are sure that, when you gave us timber for the building of the new school of theology, your intention was to complete the work; for true praise is for him, not who begins but, who completes that he has begun. Will you, then, graciously give us some stone, which we now sorely need; and you shall find us ready to serve you, as we shall be able, in return.

SALUTEM tuam, quam in Christi visceribus perpetuam esse cupimus, 1453.
eciam ut in hoc seculo floreat optamus. Nam cum probitatis tue munera, que scilicet in lapidibus et meremiis fabrice nostrarum scolarum plurimum decoris afferre visa sunt, contuleris, non minus a laudis tue fama putamus abesse, quod ad tam famosi operis complecionem[2] manus adjutrices posuisse credaris. Et quid tibi, probissime vir, cumulacius unquam concessum fuit, quam ut ad tante fabrice maturacionem operam dederis et continuitatem. Proculdubio veritatis ab ore commendatur, qui, non incepisse sed, quod incepit ad perfectum duxisse, letatur. Quia igitur nobis de te nefas est quidquam aliud suspicari, dignetur humanitas tua, uti solita fuerat, instanti necessitatis articulo, pro felicis operis hujus consummacione quibusdam lapidibus subvenire curare. Nos quoque pro posse nostro valebimus, si tibi fuerimus oportuni, quod nos explere cupias efficacissime perimplere.

Scripta fuit hec littera Edmundo Reed, armigero, pro lapidibus acquirendis ad fabricam novarum scolarum, undecimo die Marcii.

[1] *decimo nono* written over, MS. [2] This word is omitted in the context and written over the line, so faintly, however, that it may be almost anything.

224.

To the Lord Lovell.

1453. RIGHT Worshipfull and Reverent syr, as hertly as we canne or may we recommende us unto you: and, for asmuch as we Right wel understond the grete zele and tendre benevolence that ye have unto the god expedicion of oure scoolis of divinite, we besech alle mighty god to reward you ther, as we may not bot only by continuall priere—the wich is the moste singulere mean that we may offre unto the pleasure of all might god—to make you partene in the desires of oure peticions for oure protectours and speciall welwillers. And how be it we be sufficiently enformed, that it pleasith youre godnesse to shew unto us, by the enformacion of oure right welbeloved [1] Edmund Reed esquiere, your tendre love to the final complecion of oure seid scoolis; we besech your lordship of continuance; for, notwithstandyng [2] oure grete necessite, by youre singulere and charitable furtheraunce we canne suppose within short tyme oure seid worke effectuosly may be complessid: the wich after oure powere shall endure unto you and youre progeny in oure Universite a perseveraunt memorialle; and as we shal prey to god your merece [3] to be encresid everlastingly. *Wreten the xx^t^ day of march the zere of oure lord mcccccliii for my lord lovell.*

225.

To the Earl of Salisbury, Lord Chancellor.

Whereas certain religious of foreign Universities, and especially of that of Paris, are in the habit of coming here, in the season of Lent only, ostensibly to preach and shrive penitents; but also, in fact, to receive the alms of Italians—which have been the means of support of our own students of that nationality—to the injury of these last mentioned and discredit of the University; we venture to make our petition that graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, approved by us, may be selected, and members of foreign Universities not allowed to remain in London for this purpose; both because of the injury inflicted upon us,—with whom they do not deal equally in the mutual granting of degrees,—and also because we consider that, by residing in this country, they are the means of communicating secrets of state to a nation with whom we are at war.

1454. SERENISSIME domine, quanquam id nobis semper affuit, quo preclara vestra celsitudinis dignitas et titulus [4] meritorum laudumque preconiis

[1] *welbelovyd*, corrected by the same hand, MS. [2] *at this tyme our seid works effectuosly may be complessid.* These words in the MS. come after *notwithstanding*, but are faintly crossed out. [3] Perhaps *merete*, but probably from *merces*. [4] *Titus* MS.

decorari meruit; nihilominus tamen eo fervencius exorandam optandamque celerius esse decrevimus, pro quanto nobis in hiis, que digne petimus, gratissimam se velle prebere putamus. Et quamvis ambigere non est datum ut apud nobilissimos probosque viros illi precipue bene meriti sint, quos morum gravitas sciencieque sublimitas condecorant; pro hiis tamen, qui altissimam professi paupertatem, in Christi stigmatibus se divites esse letantur, nobilitatem dominacionis vestre duximus informandam. Itaque sic res in propatulum venit. Quidam viri religiosi forensium Universitatum, potissime Universitatis Parisiensis, hoc solum anni tempore, titulo predicandi illucusque veniunt, seu confessiones audiendi; ac eleemosinas Italicorum virorum, quibus nostri studentes religiosi illius lingue sustentari solebant, in ipsorum dispendium atque alme nostre matris Universitatis minorem famam, recipiunt et demoliuntur. Perceptoque quod volebant, statim post quadragesimam sua repetunt; et in hoc plane non parva miracione ducimur, quomodo et ipsi permitti valeant sic infra regnum non solum nostris detrimentum ferre; verum, quod timendum est, consilia secretaque nostre reipublice per tales in latissima terrarum spacia sepius promulgari posse. Et quia non tante caritatis vinculo nobis sociari presumuntur, qui nobiscum scienciis et gradibus communicari nolunt, unde laudabile Universitatis nomen longius diffunderetur, sicuti deceret; deprecamur igitur, quatenus nostrarum Universitatum filii, Oxonie scilicet et Cantabrigie, quos apud nos examinatos censemus, aliis preferantur: nec tales aliarum Universitatum, potissime illius, que est in terra inimicorum, Parisiensis, permittantur, in repulsam nostrorum studencium, Londoniis expectare: quin pocius, principum domino- Fol. 101 a.
rumque potestate considerata, regni securitate et nostrarum Universitatum honestate, a tali prestolacione extraordinaria coerceantur. Quam peticionem, si precibus nostre Universitatis fueritis inclinati perimplere, rem putamus vestre dignitati congruam, et nostre studencium utilitati profecisse gaudebitis.

Scripta fuit hec littera domino Cancellario Anglie, Comiti Sarum:, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo quarto, quinto die Aprilis.

226.

To the Executors of Rawlyn Holand.

Rygth worschipfull syrys, we grete you well; and forasmuche as 1454.
we ben credybely enformyd of dyverse grete almes and merytory dedys, that ye have of late tyme ful blessfully dystrybuted of the goodes of Rawlyn Holand late decesed—wose soule god assoile—

pleese you to wete, that we have yn the Unyversyte of Oxonford a scole of divinite in bildyng, to the worschippe of god, edifiing of feyth, and destruction of vices : the wyche worke we be not suffycient of goodes of the seide Universyte to fynishe and performe; like as your welbelovyd berer of thys canne pleynely enforme yow; to whom we pray yow gefe feytfulle credence yn thys mater. Werfor we hertely pray yow of your charytable subportacion and helpe to the seyde worke, so that we may have cause perpetualy to pray for yow and for the seide soule; lyke as we pray for other singuler benefactors of the seyde Unyversyte. And youre lord have yow yn hys kepyng. *Wreten at Oxonford the xix day of may. Chaunceler of Oxonford and the hole semeble of maystres regens yn the same.*

227.

To Master Gilbert Kymer, Dean of Salisbury.

The wise and successful discharge of your duties as our chief magistrate have won for you increasing respect among us, and made your example a mirror for Chancellors; To govern others well the first requisite is 'mens conscia recti.' *Deeds however, not words, become us: and whereas we have received your assistance in building our new school with the full intention of repaying the same, though at present we have not been able to do so, we appeal to your goodness and affection for us to grant us farther or even larger aid, and we hope to discharge our debt by the appointed time.*

1454. Indies apud nos, recolende Domine, adeo tua veneranda crescit auctoritas ut totam nostram rempublicam eo celsiorem felicioremque putemus, quo tuis munita presidiis attollitur in melius, et beneficiorum sperata continuitate prosperatur securius. Quis enim probitatem tuam digna laude commendet? quandoquidem in administracione nostre reipublice tam prudenter, sobrie, fortiterque vigilaveris, ut prioribus tuis in officii tui dignitate constitutis quippe ne cesseris; et sequacibus tuis, si libet audire, perspicuum imitacionis speculum exhibere bene meritus es. Nihil profecto mortalibus unquam [1] salubrius esse concessum fateamur oportet, maxime iis qui presunt, quam primum semetipsos intranee virtutis examine probatos esse posse intelligere; quo nedum sui, quin pocius subditorum curam vigilanter gerere possint. Sed quia percelebres actus tui hiis morum predotatis [2] insigniis excellenter claruere [3], satis est ad tue veneracionis cumulum facta pocius quam verba proferre testimonium. E quibus et illud

[1] *unquam aliquid* MS. [2] *prenotatis*? [3] *clarue* MS.

tuum a nobis ex mutuo susceptum, quod quantum glorie nostrarum scolarum fabrice contulerit oculis intuencium liquet. Esse censendum hoc eapropter accommodatum, quod fide media a nobis receptum non ambigimus remittere, curavimus. Hoc in animo habentes, ad tue paternitatis confidenciam uti, quomodo nos reddere quod justum est, quanquam aliquali necessitate prepediti, sategimus, ita sic rogamus ex corde humanitatis caritatisque tue, felici operis hujus consummacione, rursus eandem summam vel ampliorem, si haud gravitati tue simus infesti, nobis accommodare. Cui peticioni, vel ut verius dicamus, oportunitati[1], si gratanter annueris, statutos inter te et nos dies, cum fortuna letius arriserit, sperabimus posse custodire. Ecce quod nostrum erat: et si non, ut debuimus, perfecisse valeamus, amicicie[2] tamen fores exiliter pulsamus; quod si nobis aperueris, ingentis tue magnificencie vinculo nos artius constat esse ligatos.

Scripta fuit hec littera magistro Gilberto Kymer, Decano Sarum:, duodecimo die Julii.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

Fol. 101 b.

NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevell, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, T. Beket et Robertum Norman, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynesham in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos sterlingorum, bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per dictum Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos solutos, dictumque Abbatem inde acquietavimus per presentes, sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, secundo die mensis Novembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo tercio.* 1454.

Scripta fuit hec quietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynesham, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo quarto, et anno regni regis Henrici tricesimo tercio.

Testimonial letter for Master John Morton.

NONO die mensis Novembris, sigillata erat littera testimonialis pro magistro Johanne Morton, legum doctore, secundum formam antiquitus usitatam. 1454.

Acquittance for Master John Spekynton.

VICESIMO quinto die mensis Novembris, sigillata fuit una acquietancia pro magistro Johanne Spekynton, sub forma communi et antiquitus 1454.

[1] *importunitati*?

[2] *amicie* MS.

usitata; Cancellario Georgio Nevyll, et procuratoribus magistris T. Beket et Roberto Norman: anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo tercio.

Citation of Master John Nyman.

1454. Nono die Decembris, sigillata fuit una littera citatoria pro magistro Johanne Nyman, sub forma ut patet in tercio folio, que sic incipit '*Satis nobis*,' &c., anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo quarto.

Sexto[1] *decimo die Decembris sigillate erant iste due literae subscriptae.*

228.

To the duchess of Suffolk[2].

1454. Ryght hygth and noble lady, we recommend us mekely un to youre good and gracyouse ladyshyppe, wyth þe gostely suffrages of oure prayers for youre goode estate and prosperyte, and alle youre wel wyllyng; prayng almyghty god, þt rewardyth every goode and merytori dede, to thanke yowr goode and graciose ladyschip for yowr noble and ryght notable ȝyftes in boks and golde to owr moder thunyversite, quar yowr memore schall be had ever in gods mynd and manne[3]. & for alsmuche as we be informyt, be the report of ȝowr servant robert bulkley, that ȝou, of ȝowr abundant goodnese and graciose lady schip, grawnttit xx lib mor un to þe beldyng of owr scole of dyvinite in oxn̄:, and the benevolence of ȝowr gode ladyschip, of þe qwyche we pray ȝow devotly, as we and owr successoris schall pray specially for ȝow and for ȝowr noble progenitors. and we pray ȝowr gode ladyschip to ȝife fayt and credence un to owr ryght wellbelovyd maystre william churche, supervisor of þe werks of þe sayd scollis, in suche materis as he schall declare un to yowr hy and noble ladyschip. and alle myghty god kep and preserve ȝow in welth and prosperite, and defend ȝow from alle adversite. *Wrytin at Oxn̄: in owr semely hows the xiii day of decembre, Be the chancellare, procuratours and regents of thuniversite of oxn:*

229[4].

1454. Ryght wyrschipfull seris, we gret ȝow well, and, aftre ȝowr welfar interly desyryd, we pray ȝow to remembre ȝow of owr letteris send to

[1] This seems to be a mistake, both the letters in question being distinctly dated December 13. [2] No address, probably to Lady Suffolk. [3] i. e. *and man's*.
[4] No address, but evidently to the executors of Rawlin Holand.

ȝow from us be owr welbelovyd mayster w. churche, berer of this owr letter; the tenor of the qwyche letter a for sende the sayd m[1] càn remembre ȝow. and we now hertly pray ȝow to schew ȝowr benevolence, qwat it plese ȝow of ȝow goode charite, in the goods of the wyrschipfull and notable man rawlin holand, lat decesed,—qwos sowl god asoille,—so that we may have cause to have the sayd sowl in speciall rememorans amonge owr syngulere benefacturs of owr sayd **Fol. 102 a.** thuniversite, aftre the forme declarid in owr first lettre. and we pray ȝow to gyfe faythfull credence to the sayd maystre, in that that he woll declare un to ȝow, in þe gret and large costs þt the universite beryth in beldyng of owr scoll of divinite in oxn:. And alle myghty god preserve ȝow in prosperite. *Wrytin at oxn: in owr semly hows xiii day of decembre, Be the chawncellere and procuratours and regents of thuniversite of Oxinforde.*

Acquittances of Oseney and Eynsham Abbeys.

QUINTO die mensis Marcii, sigillate erant due acquietancie, una **1454.** Abbati et conventui de Oseney, et altera Abbati et conventui de Eynysham, pro anno Henrici sexti tricesimo tercio, secundum formam antiquitus usitatam.

Testimonial letter for Master W. Town.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere **1455.** pervenerint, Georgius Nevill, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Quia inter cetera humanitatis officia justicie proculdubio consentaneum, et nobis, qui virtutis et sciencie studia profitemur, modo peculiari quodam debitum est, viros morum gravitate et sciencia preditos digna laudis veritatisque prerogativa venerari, et benemeritis laudem tribuere; Hinc nos, istiusmodi[2] non segni precipitive consideracionis oculo perlustrantes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis in Christo, magister W. Town, sacre pagine professor, vir quidem ingenio solers, maturitate nedum sciendi[3] magnificus, verum rebus in agendis ac universa morum honestate adeo preclarus, providus et circumspectus apud nos extiterit, quod ad summi doctoratus fastigium provehi celebri cum gaudio[4] in nostra Universitate promeruit. Quinimo cuncta, que ad tanti gradus solemnitatem pertinent in eadem sacra pagina, usquequaque complevit atque felicissimum deduxit ad exitum. Ut igitur hujus testi-

[1] i. e. *master*. [2] This it seems, should be '*hec et istiusmodi*'; cf. testimonial letter (for Master Merschall) next following, p. 330. [3] *sciencie*? [4] *gaudi* MS.

ficacionis gracia omnium, quorum penes se interest, propensiorem consequatur effectum, has litteras communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo octavo die mensis Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo quinto.*

Scripta fuit hec littera pro doctore Town, in sacra theologia professore, die anno et mense suprascriptis.

Acquittance of Bishop of Worcester (J. Carpenter) and Henry Sampson, clerk.

1454. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevyll, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Thomam Beket et Robertum Norman, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, a Reverendo in Christo patre et domino, domino Johanne Carpenter, Dei gracia Wigorniensi episcopo et Henrico Sampson, clerico, decem libras sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie; virtute cujusdam compoti inter dictam Universitatem et predictum reverendum in Christo patrem et Henricum clericum facti: De quibus quidem decem libris fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque reverendum in Christo patrem et Henricum inde acquietamus per presentes, sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre, &c., vicesimo quarto die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo tercio*[1].

Sigillata fuit hec acquietancia episcopo Wigorniensi, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo quinto, mense et die suprascriptis[2].

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1455. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevell, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Johannem Mareschale et Walterum Wyndscore, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Enesham in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per dictum Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, ultimo die mensis Octobris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti tricesimo quarto.*

[1] and [2] One or other of these dates is obviously wrong; and, as Masters Beket and Norman were proctors in 1454, this and not 1455 is the correct date. The document therefore is, as so many others are, misplaced in the MS.

Another acquittance of the same Abbey.

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NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevell, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Johannem Marschall et Walterum Wyndesore, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Enensham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam pensione Universitati debita, ac per eosdem Abbatem et conventum ad festum S. Nicholai solvenda: De quibus sedecim solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, undecimo die mensis Decembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo quarto.* 1455.

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevell, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Johannem Mareschall et Walterum Wyndesore, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis [presentium [1]], de Abbate et conventu de Osenay in Comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum, bone et legalis monete Anglie, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per predictum Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, undecimo die mensis Decembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo quarto.* 1455.

Another acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

DUODECIMO die Februarii deliberata fuit quedam acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Enesham, sub hac forma. Noverint universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevyl, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Johannem Mareschall et Walterum Wyndesore, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Enesham in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos bone et legalis monete Anglie, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per predictum Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes, sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum* 1455.

[1] *presencium* omitted in MS.

in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo nono die mensis Januarii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo quarto.

Testimonial letter for Master John Merschall.

1456. Septimo die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo sexto, deliberata fuit quedam littera testimonialis magistro Johanni Merschall, procuratori boreali Universitatis, sub hac forma;—Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore: Inter cetera humanitatis officia justicie procul dubio consentaneum, et nobis, qui virtutis et sciencie studia profitemur, modo peculiari quodam debitum est, viros morum gravitate et sciencia preditos, in nostre matris grege conversantes, digne laudis testimonio juvare. Enimvero quo magis benemeritis et jugi studio solerter insistentibus congruum laudis tributum impenditur, ceteris eo fervencius ad capessendas virtutum semitas moralitatis exemplar proponitur. Hec atque istiusmodi ante nostre consideracionis oculos statuentes, per has litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis in Christo magister Johannes Marshall, in artibus magister, vir quidem ingenio pollens, arcium maturitate liberalium insignitus, nostreque reipublice, quamdiu procuratoris officium honorifice adeptus, nedum rebus in agendis providus et circumspectus, verum eciam in universa morum honestate preclarus extiterat. Quibus in rebus adeo studiose sapienterque et summa cum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, necnon singula, que ad procuratoris nostri[1] officium pertinere noscuntur, adeo provide laudabiliterque complevit, ut eum nullo noverimus[2] crimine innodatum, nec ulla sinistre fame labe quovismodo maculatum; sed cunctis bene beateque vivendi exemplar exhibuit, ac suis exigentibus meritis per nos sibi meruit de premissis fidele testimonium perhiberi. Ut igitur hujus testificacionis gracia, omnium, quorum penes se interest, propensiorem consequatur favorem, has litteras communi Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in domo congregacionis, die et anno supradictis.*

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Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1456. Sexto die Decembris deliberata fuit quedam acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Enysham sub hac forma; Noverint universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevyll, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Johannem Brethere et Robertum Abdy, procuratores Univer-

[1] *nostre* MS. [2] *nullo nomine crimine.* ib.

sitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynesham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sexdecem solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem sexdecem solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, sexto die Decembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo quinto.*

Another acquittance of the same Abbey.

TERCIO decimo die mensis Decembris, deliberata fuit quedam acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynesham; sub forma que sequitur, Noverint universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevyll, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Johannem Brethere et Robertum Abdy, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynesham in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie; in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum acquietamus per presentes. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, tercio decimo die mensis Decembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo quinto.* 1456.

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To the Pope.

The government, maintenance, and improvement of churches and religious foundations are, we think, a worthy object of your care; therefore feeling anxious that men may be promoted to preside over them, whose lives will advance the honour of God and his worship, and increase the devotion of the laity, and who will maintain the buildings in good repair; we humbly commend to your holiness Master William Westcare, Prior of Mottefont, a man of gravity and learning, and whose value we well know. He has been unanimously chosen Prior of their students by the united voice of all the chapters of the regular Canons in England, and has discharged the duties of that office with discretion and advantage to all: He has been several times Commissary, and has governed wisely and well, and his sermons both here, and in the most important places elsewhere, have been of remarkable excellence, and his life an example to all.

1456. QUARTO decimo die Decembris, deliberata fuit quedam littera domino Pape Kalisto pro doctore Westcare, doctore theologie, sub hac forma que sequitur; Sanctissime ac beatissime pater, post pedum oscula beatorum,—non indignum putamus vestre solicitudinis oculos ad ea eciam convertere, que commodum, profectum, et utilitatem ecclesiarum, et locorum ecclesiasticorum ubilibet constitutorum regimen, conservacionem, et augmentum concernere dinoscuntur: et ad eorum gubernacionem tales assumere et promovere ardenter affectamus, quorum vita honor Dei ac cultus sacre religionis ampliari, populi devocio augeri, loca ipsa ecclesiastica tueri, edificari ac bene recteque gubernari valeant. Nos itaque, cognoscentes religiose vite honestatem, sciencie maturitatem ac prudencie industriam, et aliarum virtutum plurimarum morumque bonorum probitatem, quibus insignitus claruit venerabilis ac circumspectus vir, et nostre Universitatis predilectus filius, magister Willelmus Westcare, sacre pagine professor, Prior prioratus ecclesie gloriose et individue Trinitatis de Moteffonte, ordinis S. Augustini, Wyntoniensis diocesis, qui, ob morum gravitatem et singularis sciencie eminenciam, consensu unanimi diversorum capitulorum generalium canonicorum regularium, infra regnum Anglie celebratorum, in Priorem studencium in Universitate predicta eorumdemque rectorem merito electus, ubi per plurimos annos in artibus scolasticis, necnon in aliis predicti ordinis profectum concernentibus, politice ac sapienter sese gessit; unde, propter ejus laudabilem et honeste conversacionis fragranciam a diversis nostre Universitatis Cancellariis officium commissarii generalis ei per plurimos annos commissa est: in quo quidem officio, Cancellariorum nostrorum loca tenens, adeo graviter ac sapienter nostre reipublice regimen curamque peregit, quod cunctis bene beateque vivendi prebebat exemplum; et, quod singulis premissis anteponendum fore arbitramur, ad Dei cultum et ortodoxe fidei incrementum, verbum Dei sermonibus exactissimis per loca publica ac regni Anglie famosissima creberrime seminavit. Quibus devotissime sanctitati vestre oblatis ac clementer, veluti speramus, exauditis, ardenter rogare non cessamus, et sepe ac sepius supplicamus, quatinus nostris intercedentibus precibus, necnon suis exigentibus meritis, piis ejus ac justis peticionibus aures sanctissime pietatis graciose dignemini inclinare. Et vestram sanctitatem, ad universalis ecclesie solacium et percelebre regimen, in longiora tempora gubernet et prosperam conservet Altissimus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Decembris die nono. Vestre sanctitatis ancilla Universitas Oxoniensis.*

Citation of Master Henry ffrances.

Fol. 103 b.

VICESIMO octavo die Januarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo sexto, deliberata ac sigillata fuit quedam littera citatoria magistro Henrico ffrances, sub hac forma que sequitur: Satis nobis dilecte, salutem: cum circa singulas nostre matris Universitatis occupaciones oculum vigilanciorem apposuerimus, quomodo veneratissimus saluberrimusque ipsius status feliciter valeat perpetuari, quamplurimis consuetudinum statutorumque generibus; ac inter cetera nostrarum cistarum indemnitatem pro posse observare—nuper vero te ciste 'Gylforde' appellate custodiam noverimus acceptasse, sicuti ex indenturis inde confectis evidenter satis apparet, nec hucusque raciocinium seu deliberacionem inde reddideris, nec substitutum quempiam tuam gerentem vicem in ea parte statuisti;—eapropter, non absque causa veremur prefatam cistam in multis pati dispendium; necnon et ejusdem ciste statuta quam graviter violari. Nos igitur, pristinum statum ac reformacionem, ejusdemque ciste deliberacionem, secundum statutorum formam cupientes, singulos, quorum interest in hac parte, quinto decimo die mensis ffebruarii, proxime[1] post datum presencium futuro, coram nobis in nostre congregacionis domo Oxonie, ex parte nostre Universitatis, in dicto negocio objiciendis responsuros, decrevimus accersiri. Te igitur, magister Henrice ffrances, hortamur, ac virtute juramenti Universitati nostre prestiti, primo, secundo ac tercio peremptorie monemus atque citamus, quatenus, loco et die prenotatis[2], nobis, de et super articulis sanam ac tutam prefate ciste custodiam concernentibus, in propria persona te conferas responsurum; ulteriusque facturum et recepturum quod justicia in hac parte suadebit. Quod si, uti te decet, curaveris adimplere, rem sane[3] tibi commodam atque necessariam perficies, ac tue commoditati, quantum cum equitate poterimus, studebimus proficere. Sin autem, acriora, ac tibi magis molesta quanquam juridica, remedia prosequi oportebit. Animadvertas igitur tui juramenti vinculum atque rei seriem; et sana consciencia vivas per secula. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo sexto die Januarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo sexto, &c.* 1456.

Similar citations issued to Masters W. Brywer and R. Merschall.

EODEM die quo supra, deliberate fuerunt alie due littere citatorie, sub eadem forma prescripta, nominibus tantum mutatis; scilicet 1456.

[1] *proximum* MS. [2] *prenotis* ib. [3] *sanam* ib.

magistro Willelmo Brywer et magistro Ricardo Merschall, anno Domini et dato ut prius, &c.

Another to Master Wm. Corker.

1456. VICESIMO nono die Januarii, deliberata et sigillata fuit quedam alia littera citatoria, sub eadem forma, nomine tantum mutato; scilicet magistro Willelmo Corker, pro deliberacione ciste de Warwyke, &c.

Acquittances of Eynsham and Oseney Abbeys.

1456. MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo die mensis Marcii, deliberate et sigillate fuerunt due acquietancie; una Abbati et conventui de Eynesham, pro viginti sex solidis, in plenam solucionem annue pensionis, pro anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo quinto; et alia Abbati et conventui de Oseney pro viginti sex solidis octo denariis, pro eodem anno regis.

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To the King.

The most illustrious princes have favoured and fostered learning, and none have done so more than yourself. The narrow compass of a letter forbids us to say more. We have received your letter requesting us to give the office of superior bedell of Laws to one John Andrew: And this we would gladly do, if we could without violation of our oath to observe our statutes; but, as these require that our votes should be given 'without fear or favour' we hope you will condescend to accept this our excuse, and graciously hear farther particulars from our Chancellor.

1456. CHRISTIANISSIMO principi, Anglie et Francie regi illustrissimo et domino nostro metuendissimo.

Serenissime atque Christianissime princeps, tocius matris ecclesie singularissime protector atque defensor, cum omni devocione honores amplissimos ac subjecciones humillimas. Cum nihil prope regiam magis deceat celsitudinem, regnum magis amplificet et felix efficiat, quam morum cultus atque studium litterarum, maximi ac celeberrimi principes, ut accepimus ex historiis, ea loca sunt prosecuti favore, in quibus has res ali crescereve putabant. Quorum secuti vestigia vestri progenitores, inclitissimi atque clarissimi reges, vestre Universitati Oxoniensi graciose, ac certe divinitus, privilegia et libertates indulserant; quos utique universos predecessores vestra benignissima regia

celsitudo in tam pio erga nos favore transcendit. Nam quis est aut fuit uspiam princeps amancior cleri quam vestra serenitas? Multa hic diceremus, sed litterarum angustia prohibemur[1]. Tercio Kalendas Marcii, metuendissime princeps, omnimoda veneracione, ut equum est, vestre serenitatis litteras nobis destinatas suscepimus; quibus vestram celsitudinem quorumdam precibus credimus inclinatam, ut quendam, Johannem Andrew nuncupatum, in superioris bedellatus officium in jure canonico et civili jam nunc vacans eligeremus, et pre ceteris acceptaremus; pro quo equidem reverendum in Christo patrem et dominum, dominum Cancellarium nostre matris Universitatis Oxoniensis, quoad statutorum strictitudo permisit, efficaciter egisse testamur. Et nos ipsi, omnes et singuli, toto mentis affectu vestre majestatis contemplacione id perficeremus, si sana cujuslibet consciencia ac salvo nostri juramenti vinculo possemus illud perimplere. Re enim vera, clementissime princeps, si in nostrarum eleccionum forma ordo statuti debiti debitus in aliquo subvertatur, statuta juramentaque, quibus astricti sumus, quam graviter violarentur, atque plurimos haud dubium ejusdem rei occasione ad consciencie offensam et perjurii reatum, quod absit, invitaremus: quod et inclitissimam vestram celsitudinem magnopere nolle firmiter existimamus. Scimus profecto quod benignissima sublimitas vestra ad honorem et felicem statum Universitatis vestre pias semper benevolencie aures, ac prudentissime consideracionis oculos graciose solet atque magnifice inclinare. Unde sapiencie et serenitati vestre grates eternas et immortales unanimiter agimus, supplicantes ac devote et humillime implorantes vestram majestatem, quatenus dignetur cuilibet electuro proprie vocis libertatem[2] secundum statuti tenorem: ne quis forsan timore ductus, in quemquam consenciens, incurrat perjurium. Eapropter has nostre excusacionis litteras acceptare non dedignetur vestra benigna nobilitas; que si parve aut diminute in aliquo prudentissime consideracioni vestre videantur, reverendo in Christo patri et domino, Exoniensi electo et confirmato, vestre Universitatis Cancellario, ceterisque doctoribus et magistris vestre celsitudini statutorum strictitudinem lacius declaraturis, fidem in his plenius dignetur regia serenitas adhibere. Floreat prospere in multas etates gloria, virtus, et magnificencia vestra, semper cum victoria et triumpho. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo, Marcii die secundo.* Devoti et fideles pro vobis oratores Cancellarius et procuratores vestre alme Universitatis Oxoniensis, simulque ejusdem regentes et non-regentes, tota humilis communitas.

[1] *prohibemus* MS. [2] Some such word as *permittere* seems to be omitted.

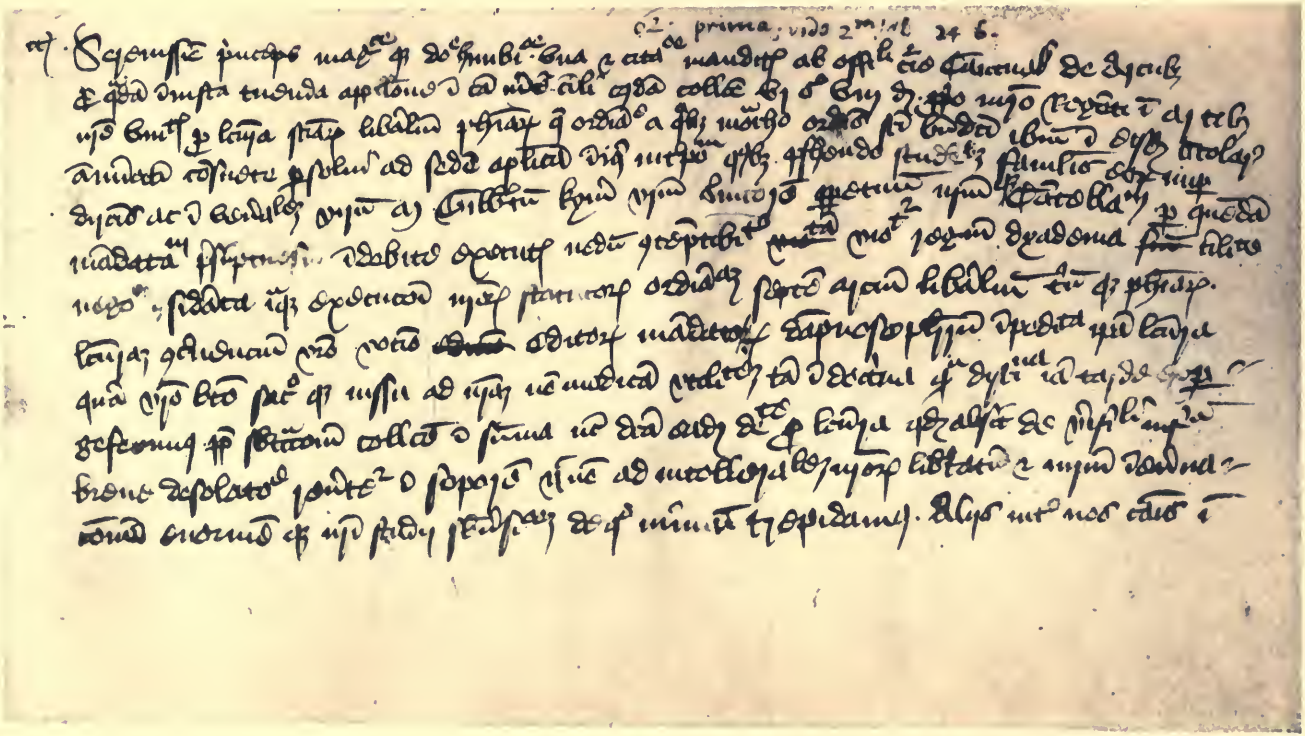
232.

Fol. 104 b. **To the Qwene, oure sovverain lady.**

1456. Most gracyous prynces and oure rygth souverain lady, we youre humble oratours wt alle reverence recommend us un to youre most noble and hygthe estate, wt the gostely suffrages of oure dayly prayers. And for as muche as yt hath plesyd youre noble hythnesse tendrely to wryte and to commaund us, that we schuld chese be fore alle oder John Andrew, servaunt un to Syr Edmund Hamdene, Knygth, to the offyce of the gentylman bedle of youre universite; we be seche devoutly youre noble and hygth dyscrescyone, to have in remembraunce that everyche of youre sayd oratours, that shall have interest in the eleccyone, shall ȝeve an othe, immedyatly be fore the same eleccyone, that alle maner love, hate or drede, favoure or ony odyr affeccyon, prayer or mede utturly layd a parte, such a persone to chese and name, as the dyscrescyone of hys owne private consciense demyt most abyll to be chosyne, and to do worschyp and truest servyce in the sayd office. The wyche streynesse of othe, deuly consydred of yor most prudent and excellent dyscrecyone, we trust shall be oure suffisant and resonnabyl excuse in oure eleccyone to kepe oure othe and statute. Wherefore we be seche yor hygth and gracyous ladyschyp to graunte us owre consuete libertes in oure eleccyones; and alle that may be do, savyng oure consciense, and that the straynesse of the sayd statute may permytte us, at the reverence and contemplacyone of youre gracyous letteres we shall do and utturly fulfyll. Besechyng youre noble estate to be gracyous protectryse to youre sayd universite, as we shall pray god hertyly for youre noble estate. *Wrytyn at Oxonford in oure semble howse the secunde day of Marche, Be youre devoute and trew oratours, the Chanceler procturs and regentes of ȝor universite of Oxon.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1457. Memorandum, quod quinto die mensis Novembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti tricesimo sexto, deliberata fuit quedam acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynesham, in comitatu Oxoniensi, de viginti sex solidis, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis per eosdem Abbatem et conventum debite, secundum formam communem.



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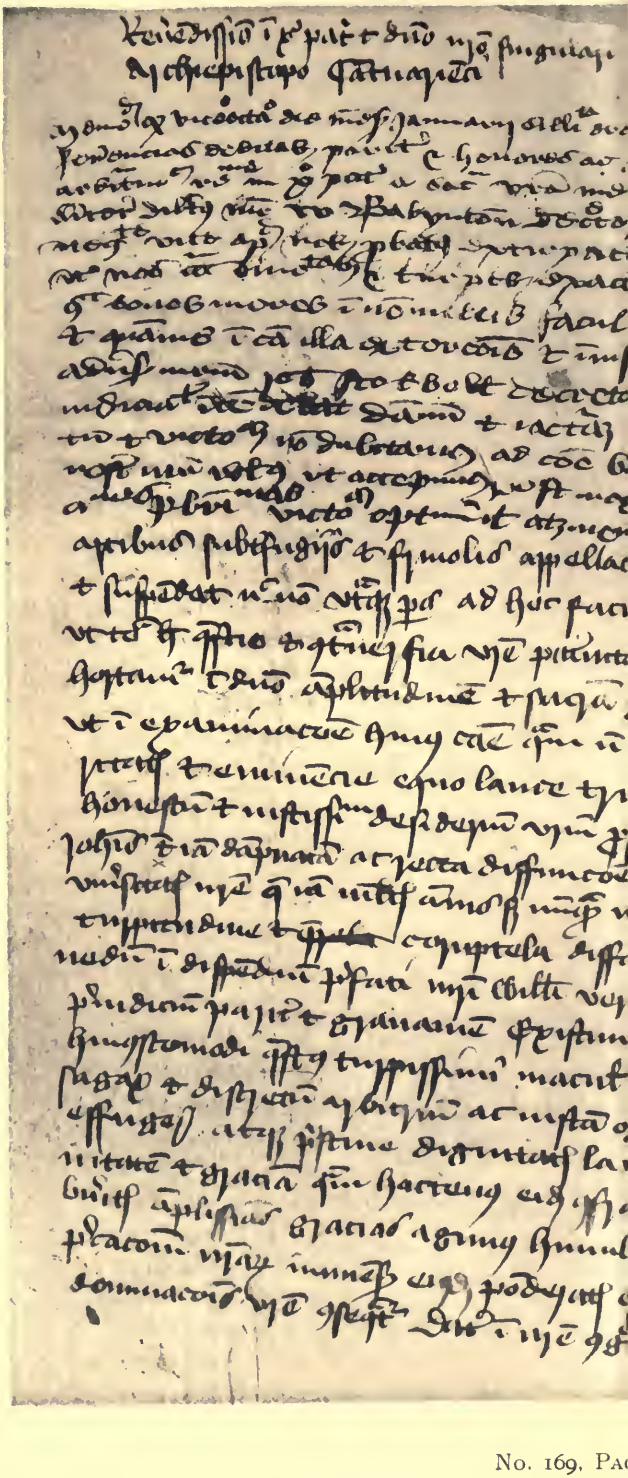
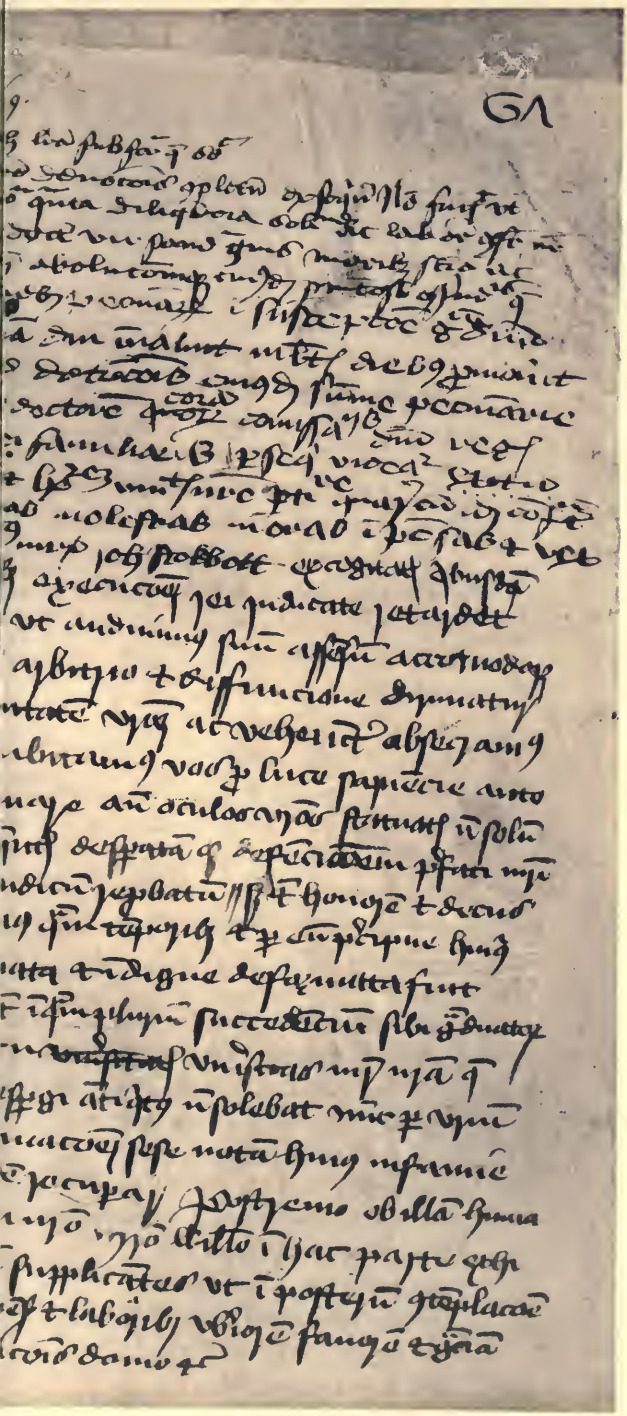
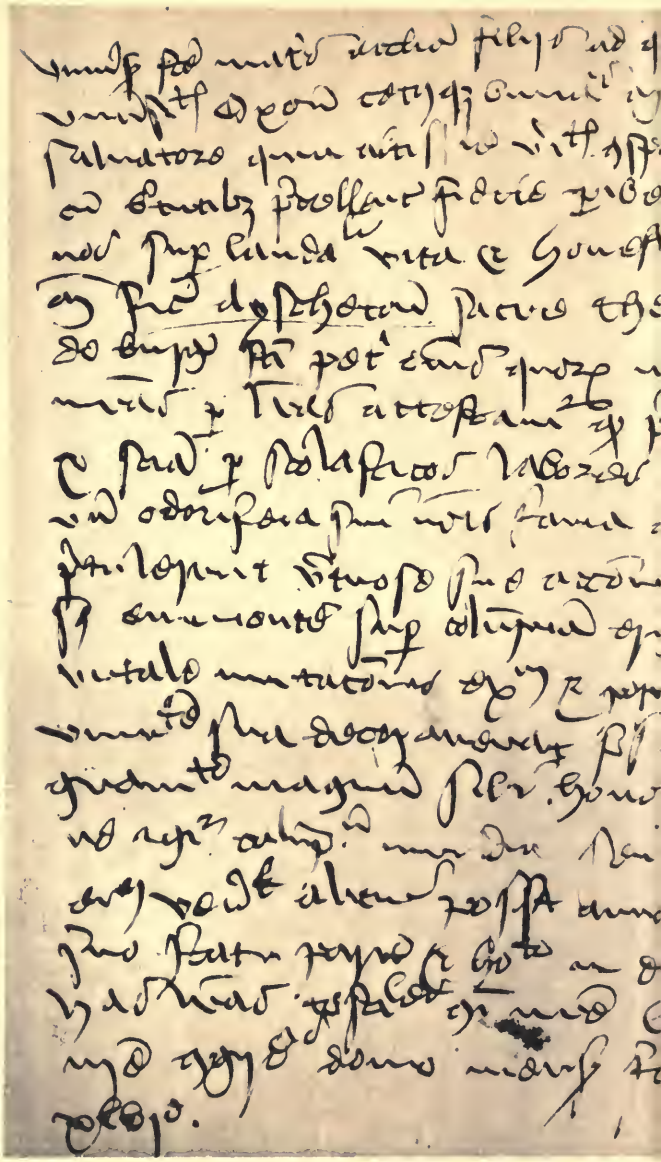
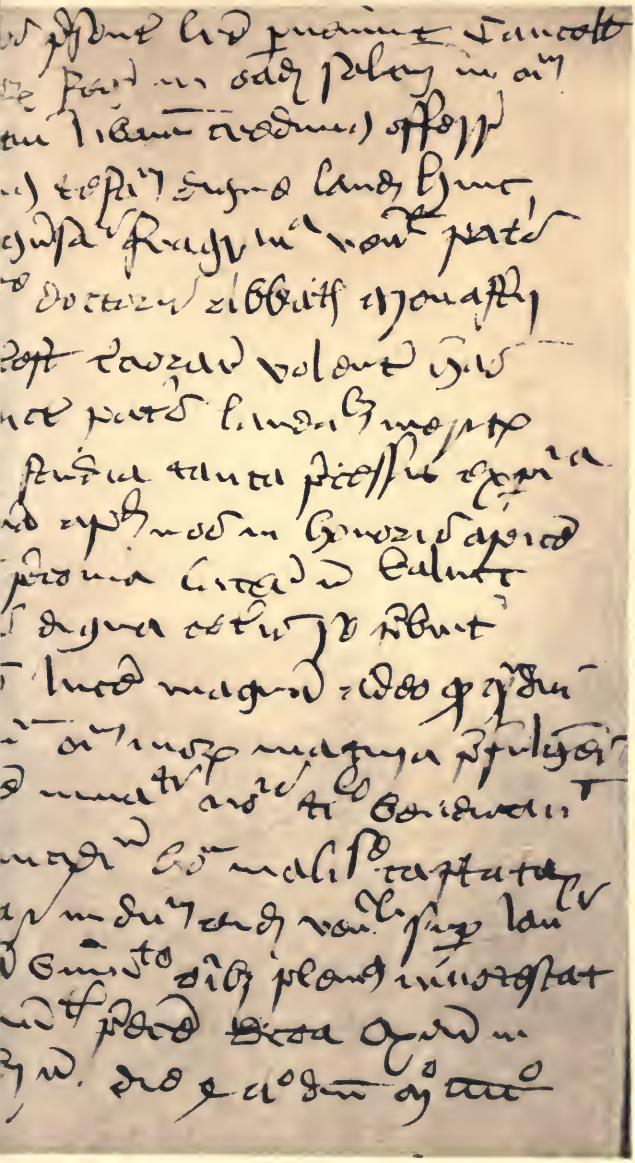


No. 169, Pa







To the Worshipfull co[illegible]

Lyght Worshipfull ~~and~~ Worthy
grace and ye godnes of ye holy gostle
ye honore and ye Worship of god [illegible]
syderable and durable prosperyth of [illegible]
that our moder ye Universyte [illegible]
ryng your gyst and intensive [illegible]
sade gouvernance of ye sed Realme
tion and ye Understonde is in lab
of londys tenementys and possessions
lanterne and Welle of ye clergy [illegible]
of ye same Universyth of [illegible]
creste of holy fayth by [illegible]
pylleys of holy chuyche as [illegible]
~~[illegible]~~
by naturale inclinacion as ye
[illegible] in maynteny our collegge
benys of vertus and coming by ye
lygh nyth alle ye noble Realme
[illegible] fundyd stablyd in ye same
to almygthy god our dere to [illegible]
ye [illegible] day of Novembur

Chancellor of [illegible]
hole Comble of [illegible]

No. 208, PA

208.

[illegible] off ye present noble parlament

[illegible] in thys and noble parlament

[illegible] you to [illegible] yoes to [illegible] to

[illegible] and ye de

[illegible] noble realme Please hyt you to knowe

[illegible] for yoes and our good spede [illegible]

and labur [illegible] ye have to ye reformyng and

and for a [illegible] that a generall [illegible]

[illegible] to be hadde to ye kyngis handys

[illegible] seide [illegible] ye moder

[illegible] yoes [illegible] to [illegible] college

[illegible] to ye worschyp of god and [illegible]

[illegible] of home [illegible]

and [illegible] of [illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] on [illegible] [illegible]

before sayde [illegible] ye [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and

[illegible] and [illegible] out of ye [illegible]

for [illegible] all [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] at [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] of oxonford [illegible] ye

[illegible] in the same.

293, Line 29

217

Right high and mighty princes dee your humble oratours recommaunde us
unto your good ladyshippe an noble grace deyth the gostely suffrages of
our prayers inioyng gretly als deel of your gonde ~~helth~~ spede late in your
matters at London as of your comyng home and abydyng in this
contre dehiche trenly beth unto us grete glorie and comfort and
for as myth that ~~hit~~ hath plesed your noble ladyshippe but
late a go to shedde unto us grete liberalite and tenderness in sondre
deyse. therfore dee beseth devotely almyth god to thanke yede
and dee for our dente als ferforth as is possible unto us thanke
yoder heynesse also dt alle the utternes of our hertes recommendyng
us dt lodely spiritt into the gracyous commaunce of your
yrth heyth and benigne ladyshippe as dee shal dayly offer to god
our prayers and devocions for your noble estate good helth
dehiche prosperite dehich our lord graunte yours abundantly
at the mede instance of our prayers. dert at Oxford in our
Sembly hous the 6 day of may. Tho the right and myghti
princes the duchesse of Suffolke our ~~right~~ especiall benefactrice
and singuler lady

No. 217, Page 303, Line 32

Oxford Historical Society.

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